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# OPEN SPACE SUB-ELEMENT

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## CITY OF SUNNYVALE GENERAL PLAN

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# OPEN SPACE SUB-ELEMENT

## CITY OF SUNNYVALE GENERAL PLAN



The Sub-Element complies with California Government  
Code Section 65302(e) and was adopted by the  
Sunnyvale City Council on  
February 18, 1992

Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Department  
Sunnyvale, California

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Parks and Recreation Department  
City of Sunnyvale  
P. O. Box 3707  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707  
(408) 730-7517

City of Sunnyvale  
Open Space Sub-Element  
of the General Plan

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## **CREDITS**

### **CITY COUNCIL**

Patricia E. Castillo, Mayor  
Barbara Waldman, Vice Mayor  
Stan J. Kawczynski   Richard Napier  
Robin Parker   Frances Rowe  
Lawrence E. Stone

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Felix Balga, Chair  
Jim Cunningham, Vice Chair  
Matthew Baker   Archie Carrico  
George Parker

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

David McKinney, Chair  
Terry Whittier, Vice Chair  
Dianna Adair   Richard Bernhardt  
John Ellison   John Miller  
Jack Walker

### **CITY STAFF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUB-ELEMENT**

Thomas F. Lewcock, City Manager  
Members of the Planning and Economic Development Review Committee

### **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUB-ELEMENT**

John W. Christian, Director  
Robert Walker, Superintendent of Parks  
Ken Mitchell, Manager of Administrative Services  
Parks and Recreation Department Management Staff  
Barbara Donaldson, Administrative Secretary


### **CONSULTANTS**

The Brauer Group, Inc.  
Cottong & Taniguchi  
David Kostik

### **SUB-ELEMENT PREPARED BY**

Marcia Somers, Assistant to the Director  
Parks and Recreation Department





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## PREFACE

The State of California mandated, in Section 65562 of the Government Code, that every city and county shall prepare and adopt a local open space plan to assure cities and counties recognize open space land as a limited and valuable resource which must be conserved wherever possible. In addition, it assures that each jurisdiction will prepare and carry out open space plans which, along with state and regional open space plans, will accomplish the objectives of a comprehensive open space program.

The Open Space Sub-Element is part of the Community Development Element of the City's General Plan and is complemented by several other Sub-Elements. Collectively, these Sub-Elements contribute toward the shaping, conservation, use and enjoyment of open space in the City of Sunnyvale. The **Land Use Sub-Element**, for example, contains goals and policies related to maintaining a city which is sensitive to special physical/natural environments in the community to protect such areas as waterways, flood plains, wetlands and archaeological resources; sustaining land use patterns which enhance the neighborhood concept; and allowing growth and change which can be served within the capacities of existing and planned facilities. It also addresses the intensity of land use on the City's remaining developable vacant land. The **Community Design Sub-Element** addresses the ambience of the community by stipulating the visual characteristics of building setbacks, heights and design, the use of street furniture and landscaping, and the development and identification of unique and attractive City boundaries, gateways and landmarks. The **Recreation** and **Cultural Arts Sub-Elements** contain goals and policies which determine in large part how and to what extent the City's open space and related facilities are utilized.

Data in this Sub-Element were derived from the 1980 U.S. Census, projections of the 1990 U.S. Census and City records. Other information sources included Santa Clara County, the National Recreation and Park Association, 1990 International Open Space Conference, other Bay Area municipalities, and various publications related to Open Space preservation, development and management.

The Open Space Sub-Element was drafted by City staff with consultant assistance. The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the contents of the Sub-Element throughout 1990 and 1991 as part of its workplan.

This document is an update of the Open Space Sub-Element last approved in 1981.





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY







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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The term "Open Space" evokes many widely differing images. Some think of open space as natural resource areas void of any human development. Some consider open space as parks and athletic fields. Still others think of open space as well-maintained plazas or vistas surrounding buildings. Each of these concepts, from the open seasonal wetlands at Baylands Park to Ortega, Las Palmas, and Lakewood Parks to the Community Center complex, is part of the open space that has grown to be an important component of the quality of life in Sunnyvale.

**Open space contributes to the well-being of the environment.** On both the global and local levels, open space serves a cleansing role for air and water.

**Open space contributes to the well-being of Sunnyvale.** A well-managed open space system enhances the image of the community, helping the City attract and retain industry, commerce and residents.

**Open space contributes to the well-being of the people who live and work in Sunnyvale.** The existence of open space provides a visual break from the built environment. Open space sites and facilities provide people with the opportunity and encouragement to pursue healthful, wholesome recreation activities, improving both their physical and mental well-being.

Recognizing this, the City of Sunnyvale has preserved valuable open space at sites throughout the community and made it available to the public through a comprehensive system of parks and facilities.

Management of this open space system to serve the needs of the public in the 1990's presents a variety of challenges which require innovative policies and strategies. Since the Open Space Sub-Element was last updated in 1981, changes in the environmental, economic and social arenas have made it necessary for the City to modify its approaches in several key areas.

The City's commitment to serve in a leadership role in environmental affairs has become increasingly important. The extended period of drought that began in the mid 1980's has provided the City with strong reason to develop and model innovative water conservation strategies for its citizens. Similarly, the City has adopted strategies to minimize use of chemicals in maintenance of turf and landscape plantings.

It is also apparent that the public has increasingly high expectations for quality of service. Therefore, the City is adopting programs that permit it to better understand the needs of the people who live, work or visit in Sunnyvale, and to enhance the open space system to better serve those needs.

Changing economic conditions have also created a need for new approaches to the management of open space. Escalating land costs and reductions in levels of funding available from state and federal sources mean the City needs to identify alternative funding mechanisms for acquisition and development of open space. The City is also continuing to explore creative ways to reserve public access to open space without acquisition by the City.

Impact of these changing economic conditions is most evident in the City's work with school districts to assure that school open space is preserved and available for public use. When declining enrollments and the closure of schools began to threaten the continued availability of school district-owned open space, the City acted to preserve that open space for the public. Over the past several years the City has purchased or jointly used several school sites that had been declared surplus, for use as open space, and pursued joint maintenance programs at several open school sites. The public interest has been well-served by this innovative approach to a serious problem.

While the City will not back away from its commitment to keep this valuable open space available to the public, and to assure that it meets the City's standards for quality maintenance, the City has been shifting its priority from the purchase of school sites to long-term joint use agreements.

## **Purpose**

The Open Space Sub-Element is one of several General Plan documents which establish overall City policies that affect Sunnyvale. The Open Space Sub-Element serves as a framework which establishes direction for the City, emphasizes citizen participation and encourages private, public and intergovernmental cooperation in addressing open space issues. It provides an overview of current conditions and issues and an outline for future action to preserve and maintain adequate open space to meet the changing needs of the community.



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## Major Findings

Major findings summarize the information presented in the Open Space Sub-Element related to community conditions, future issues and trends. These form the basis for the goals and policies which follow this section.

### Financial Framework

1. In 1992, there is \$5.0 million in the Open Space Reserve.
2. In the future, funding from Federal and State agencies for open space acquisition and development may be more limited.
3. Due to projected revenues not keeping up with operating costs, there is increased emphasis on revenue generation from alternative sources for the acquisition, development and maintenance of open space.

### City Parks, Special Use Facilities and School Open Space

Parks and special use facilities currently owned, maintained or utilized by the City provide a well-balanced park system for its residents.

1. Sunnyvale's system of parks was developed based upon the neighborhood planning concept. Neighborhood parks, athletic fields and special use facilities have been designed and developed to serve open space needs in the nine neighborhood planning areas, as well as the City as a whole, and include the following:

838 acres of dedicated park land/open space. Of this total, 351 are owned by the City, 177 are owned by the County, 205 are owned by school districts, 52 acres are owned by other public agencies and 53 are owned by private entities; and

17 neighborhood parks, 25 athletic field sites, two trails/paths and eight special use facilities. Of these facilities, the school districts own the property of one park and 23 athletic/play field sites; and 1 athletic/play field site is privately owned; and

46 multi-purpose fields and 55 tennis courts. Of this total, the City owns 13 multi-purpose fields and 29 tennis courts. The remainder are located on school district property. Fremont Union High School District has additional multi-purpose fields

at its Fremont High and Sunnyvale High School sites. Multi-purpose fields are used primarily as ball fields or soccer fields, depending on seasonal demand.

2. Dedicated open space in Sunnyvale represents approximately 5.9% of total City acreage.
3. In 1992, there are 6.9 acres of open space per 1,000 population, which is approximately 10% above the national minimum standard. A high quality, above average standard is expected to be maintained through the next decade.
4. Current and future residential development in the Lakewood Neighborhood Planning Area may increase the number of residents from between 8,700 to 17,000 by 2010. Existing facilities will not be able to accommodate the increased needs and demands. In November 1990, Council approved the purchase of 5.33 acres in the Fair Oaks Business Park for future park development to address the need for open space in this area.
5. Vacant and agricultural land in Sunnyvale consists of only 430 acres in 1992. City parks, public plazas and other landscaped areas will assume greater importance in providing visual and physical respite from the urban environment.
6. Development of trails throughout the City, particularly on existing rights-of-way and easements, would augment the open space system with limited cost implications.
7. The City has taken a leadership role in environmental stewardship by utilizing and investigating innovative resource management techniques and strategies. These include water and energy conservation methods, limited use of chemicals for landscape maintenance and recycling of material resources. Future environmental regulations may impact the manner in which the park maintenance goals and standards are met.
8. Development of park sites, amenities, fixtures and furniture which are accessible to mobility-impaired and physically limited persons will improve the City's service to this population.

School open space significantly augments the City park system by making available open turf areas, athletic fields and special recreation facilities.

1. There are four school districts operating within the Sunnyvale City limits with a total of 14 open school sites and 9 closed school sites. In the last ten years, 7 school sites have been sold due to declining enrollment and the inability of the districts to maintain and/or lease them in a cost-effective manner.



2. Long-term open space development/maintenance/use agreements have been established with Sunnyvale Elementary School District, Cupertino Union School District and for tennis court maintenance only at Fremont High School with the Fremont Union High School District.
3. There are 33 multi-purpose fields and 26 tennis courts on school property which are considered part of the open space system. Fremont Union High School District has additional multi-purpose fields at its Fremont High and Sunnyvale High School sites. Multi-purpose fields are used primarily as both ball fields or soccer fields, depending on seasonal demand. School districts are spending significantly less of their resources on maintenance of school grounds than in the late 1970's. Because the City has an interest in keeping these sites available for informal and organized community use, the City maintains 96 acres of open space for three of the four school districts.
4. To ensure the availability of safe, well-maintained and usable school open space, the City may consider assuming maintenance responsibilities at additional sites.
5. The current lease for the former Sunnyvale High School by Westinghouse ends in 1992. The City may pursue adding a portion of this site to the park and open space system, as identified in the current 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.
6. Due to increasing land costs, long-term joint use arrangements may be preferable to site acquisitions.

### Regional Open Space

Large areas of open space, managed by the City, County, State and Federal governments, as well as Special Districts, supplement the City's neighborhood park system.

1. Over 10,150 acres of regional open space owned and managed by other governmental or private agencies are located in or within close proximity to Sunnyvale. In the development of open space sites and facilities, multi-jurisdictional review is necessary to assure duplication of services is minimized and that services are delivered by the most appropriate agency.
2. Sunnyvale Baylands Park, the only regional park in the City's open space system, is scheduled to open in the early 1990's with partial capital contribution from and complete maintenance responsibility assumed by the City.
3. Development of regional trail systems is a high priority for local, regional and state

agencies. The City has a two-fold responsibility: 1) to cooperate with other agencies in the planning, development and maintenance of regional trails through the City; and 2) to plan and develop trail linkages into the regional systems.

### Industrial/Commercial Open Space

1. Open space sites and facilities provided by industrial and commercial organizations contribute to meeting open space needs of people who live and work in Sunnyvale.
2. Economic factors may impact the ability of industrial and commercial organizations to continue providing these open space sites and facilities.
3. Cooperation between the City and these private organizations may provide innovative ways of serving the public's needs while avoiding duplication of services.

### Goals and Policies

#### Management of Open Space

- A. Manage a comprehensive open space program that is responsive to public need, delivers high quality customer service and exemplifies the City's commitment to leadership in environmental affairs.
  - A.1. Encourage active citizen involvement in the development and management of open space.
  - A.2. Provide consistently high quality customer service through attractive open space, parks and facilities which invite and facilitate public use.
  - A.3. Provide a comprehensive program of consistent and effective operations and maintenance for all open space and park sites and facilities.
  - A.4. Implement innovative policies and practices that support the City's leadership in environmental affairs.



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## Fiscal Framework

- B. Acquire and develop open space identified as high priority through land dedication or purchase.
  - B.1. Require the dedication of land by developers when the property to be developed is adjacent to an existing open space, park site or area otherwise identified as a high priority for open space uses.
  - B.2. Pursue the acquisition of federal lands currently located at Moffett Naval Air Station.
  - B.3. Maintain the Open Space Reserve at a level sufficient to meet identified land acquisition goals.
  - B.4. Identify revenue sources and increase revenues, where possible, which can be allocated to parks and open space operating budgets and capital improvements.

## Parks and Special Use Facilities

- C. Maintain a system of parks that assures all residents, workers and visitors access to recreation opportunities by providing Neighborhood Parks, Athletic/Play Fields and Special Use Facilities.
  - C.1. Provide, develop and maintain Neighborhood Parks.
  - C.2. Provide, develop and maintain Athletic/Play Fields.
  - C.3. Investigate development of a system of multi-purpose trails for recreational uses.
  - C.4. Provide, develop and maintain Special Use Parks and Facilities.

## School District Support and Cooperation

- D. Cooperate with and support the four School Districts which serve Sunnyvale in order to continue access to school sites and facilities by people who live, work or visit in Sunnyvale for suitable, safe and consistent recreational use and enjoyment.

- D.1. Participate in joint planning by the City and the School Districts for preservation, development or upgrading of open space and recreational facilities for continued community use of school open space sites.
- D.2. Encourage the School Districts to retain school sites used for community open space and recreation programs. When financially feasible, consider acquisition or joint use of sites and suitable facilities that are declared surplus if they are needed to maintain neighborhood open space accessibility.

#### Intergovernmental Coordination and Cooperation

- E. Encourage and cooperate with other governmental agencies to preserve and protect regional open space and to acquire, develop, maintain and operate regional recreation facilities that are available to people who live, work or visit in Sunnyvale.
  - E.1. Support and encourage Santa Clara County, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, State of California and appropriate federal agencies and established private entities to acquire, develop, maintain and operate existing and new open space and recreational sites and facilities within the urbanized area in and around Sunnyvale.
  - E.2. Cooperate with other public or private agencies on the planning and development of open space sites and facilities located adjacent to City boundaries.

#### Industry, Private and Commercial Coordination and Cooperation

- F. Encourage efforts by industrial and commercial enterprises in the City to preserve, develop, operate and maintain open space and recreational facilities that are available to people who live, work or visit in Sunnyvale.
  - F.1. Encourage development of private or commercial facilities that will retain or create open space areas or expand recreational opportunities for the general public.



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# COMMUNITY CONDITIONS







## COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

Development of parks, facilities and site amenities is dependent upon the needs of the community, the anticipated types of uses and location. In order to design sites and facilities that are both appealing and functional, it is necessary to be aware of the general characteristics of the community and potential user markets.

### Open Space History

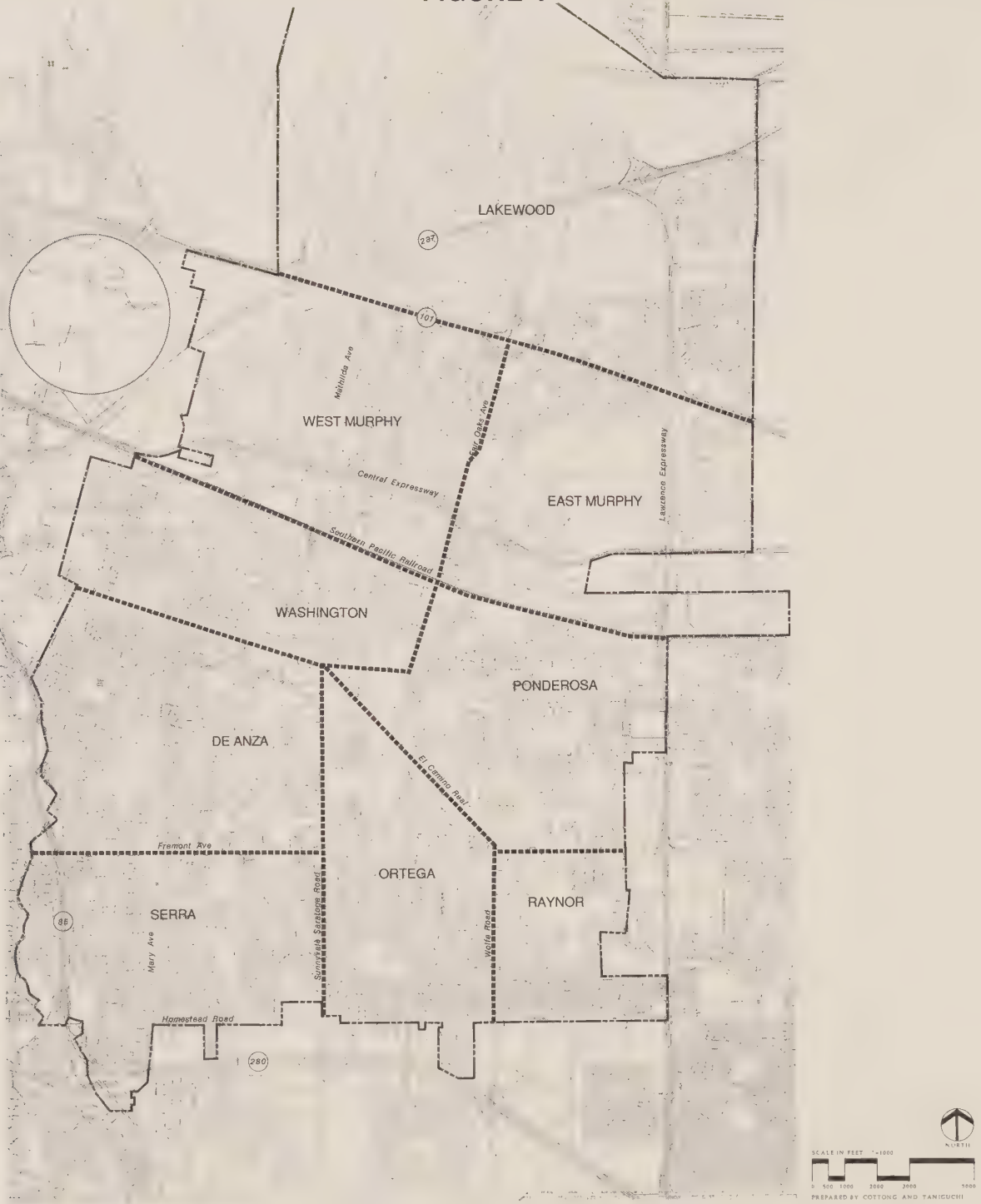
The face and character of Sunnyvale has changed dramatically during the last forty years. Once an agricultural community, the City has become highly urban due to the growth in the electronics, aerospace and computer industries. The basic development pattern established during the 1950's, the neighborhood concept, called for a school, neighborhood shopping and a park within each urban planning area. This planning concept has been sustained through the higher density, multi-family housing growth experienced in the 1960's, 1980's and now into the 1990's.

Prior to 1940, over 95% of the Sunnyvale area was rural, agricultural, non-urban open space. Today, the situation is just the reverse. The majority of the remaining 430 acres of undeveloped land is made up of small parcels scattered throughout the City. The largest contiguous undeveloped area is the seasonal wetlands and salt evaporation ponds along the Bay on the northern edge of the City.

Historically, the citizens of Sunnyvale have supported the development of high quality open space and recreation facilities. During the period 1945-1958, six park sites and 254 acres were developed including Washington, Orchard Gardens, Greenwood Manor, DeAnza and Fair Oaks Parks. The largest parcel, Mountain Park, was located in the Santa Cruz mountains as a City-owned camping site.



FIGURE 1



## NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AREAS



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

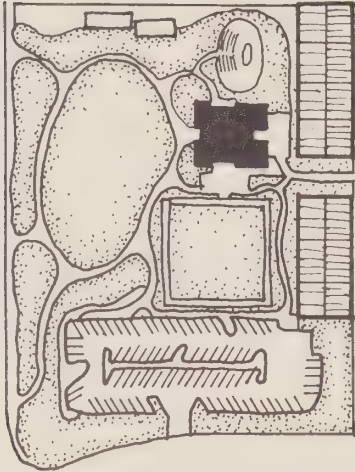


Substantial park development then occurred in the 1960's, with the addition of 226 acres to the park/open space system. Eight sites were developed in the period 1961-65, including Lakewood, Raynor, Serra, Murphy, Braly, Las Palmas, Ortega and Ponderosa Parks. The 145-acre Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course was built in 1965.

An eight-year break in development ended in 1973 with the construction of the Community Center complex and acquisition of Sunken Gardens (9-hole) golf course. Other acquisition and development activity in the 1970's was primarily to acquire additional land which adjoined the existing sites of Las Palmas, Serra and Orchard Gardens Parks and the Tennis Center. In 1976, the City entered into a lease agreement with the San Francisco Water Department to improve and maintain 10 acres of bicycle path along the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct. In 1977, the City sold Mountain Park to the County of Santa Clara and used the sale proceeds to purchase the open space at the corner of El Camino Real and Mathilda Avenue. In 1979, the City acquired Raynor School which was developed as an activity center complex and incorporated as part of the existing Raynor Park site.

Since the 1950's, the City of Sunnyvale has also worked cooperatively with the school districts to maximize the amount of recreational and open space areas available to City residents. This was particularly important in those areas where neighborhood parks were less accessible to some residents because of their specific location and various physical barriers, such as busy streets. Joint use agreements generally provided for the City to utilize school facilities after school hours and during the summer, and for the school districts to have access to City recreation facilities during school operations. Additionally, the City and school districts cooperated in joint development of facilities. These included new park sites adjacent to existing schools, as well as the construction of swimming pools, multi-purpose fields, tennis courts and other outdoor recreational facilities.

**"Since the 1950's, the City of Sunnyvale has also worked cooperatively with the school districts to maximize the amount of recreational and open space areas available to City residents."**



## Open Space Development Since 1981

The most critical measure of the success of a strategic plan is to evaluate how well the goals, policies and action statements of that plan have been met. Since the comprehensive update of the Open Space Sub-Element in 1981, landmark progress has been made toward meeting established open space goals.

Since 1981, 226 acres have been added to the open space system. In 1983, six acres of open space were purchased from the Cupertino School District at the San Antonio School site and developed as San Antonio Park. The adjacent school was acquired privately for use as the South Peninsula Hebrew Day School. In 1984, approximately five acres were acquired for Panama Park.

In 1984, the City entered into a long-term agreement with the Sunnyvale Elementary School District for the Adair School which was developed into a Multi-Purpose Senior Center. The City renovated and maintains the 3.75 acre, six-building campus site.

In 1985, the City developed the entire Columbia School site into a City park based upon the significant need for open space in that particular area of the City. Though the property is owned by the Sunnyvale School District, the City maintains the site through a joint use agreement.

In 1986, the City developed the open space portion of both Hollenbeck and Cherry Chase schools and assumed the ongoing maintenance responsibilities in exchange for exclusive use of those areas outside regular school hours.

Also in 1986, the City entered into an agreement with the County of Santa Clara for the joint development of Sunnyvale Baylands Park located adjacent to the Twin Creeks Sports Complex and west of Highway 237 on the northern edge of the City. This 177-acre project is currently in the design and development stages and is expected to be completed in the early 1990's.

In 1987, 4.5 acres were acquired and developed as Encinal Park in a new residential area of the City. Also in 1987, 3/4

of an acre was purchased and developed as Cannery Park near Central Expressway and Mathilda.

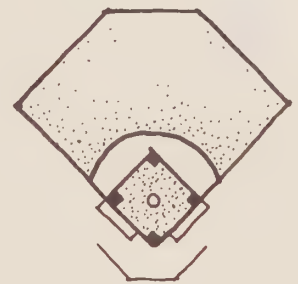
In 1989, the Cupertino School District indicated that 9.4 acres of school property directly adjacent to Ortega Park were determined to be surplus and available for sale. In lieu of selling this parcel, the School District deeded the nine acres to the City for use as open space in return for the improvement and maintenance of the turf areas of the remainder of Stockmeier-Ortega, Nimitz, Cupertino Junior High and West Valley schools. In addition, the School District will not sell or dispose of the open space at any of these sites during the 25-year period beginning in 1989.

In 1990, 5.3 acres were purchased in the Fair Oaks Business Park area to be developed as a neighborhood park in this newly rezoned residential area. Additionally, 3.43 acres of the adjacent Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct could be maintained as part of the park.

In 1991, the City entered into an agreement with the Sunnyvale School District for the improvement, maintenance, use and possible acquisition of the open space areas at 12 school sites. The improvement, general maintenance and upkeep of six of the sites, totaling 28 acres, will occur over the next three years.

Since adoption of the 1981 Sub-Element, all high priority school sites noted in the plan were acquired if surplus. No school lands which were identified as critical to the open space system were lost.

The private sector has also recognized the need for open space and recreational facilities. During the 1980's, Lockheed Missiles and Space Company expanded its facilities operated by the Lockheed Employees Recreation Association to include two lighted softball fields and a 6,500 square foot addition to the Fitness Center. National SemiConductor also added recreational facilities in the mid-1980's, to include picnic facilities, an amphitheater, ballfield, par course and playground. On the commercial side, the Twin Creeks Sports Complex is located on 53 acres of County property adjacent to Baylands Park. Under a 25-year agreement, a private





concessionaire operates the complex which consists of ten lighted softball fields and a clubhouse.

Today, the City's open space system totals 838 acres available for public use. This includes 17 neighborhood parks, 25 athletic/play field sites, two trails and eight special use facilities.

### **User Characteristics**



Much of Sunnyvale's population growth occurred between 1950 and 1970 as the City's character changed from an agricultural community to a major urban industrial center. Since 1970, a leveling trend has occurred in the population, although with the potential redevelopment of large industrial and commercial sites to residential use, additional growth could occur. Population at the time of preparation of the last Open Space Sub-Element in 1981 was 109,618; ten years later it is 119,649 and is expected, with development and redevelopment, to reach 132,450 by the year 2001. The very rapid growth of the '60s and into the '70s, however, will not be duplicated.

Demographic data available from the 1980 census are now somewhat outdated. Some of the preliminary 1990 data are being released, though it will be some time before the final information is available. Information provided here was obtained from the "Early Release" census information, the California Department of Finance, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and various City documents.

Ethnic composition will continue to be similar to the County as a whole. In Sunnyvale, 64% of the population is white, 19% is Asian/Pacific Islander, 13% is Hispanic, 3% is Black and less than 1% is of other ethnicity. In the future, it is likely the City's ethnic make-up will continue to match the County's composition with the anticipated trend of having no one ethnic group in the majority.

**FIGURE 2**  
**OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
1945	Washington Park	11.85
1955	Orchard Gardens Park	1.57
1955	Greenwood Manor	0.42
1956	DeAnza Park	9.29
1956	Fair Oaks Park	15.28
1958	Mountain Park (sold to Santa Clara County in 1977)	216.00
1962	Lakewood Park	10.70
1961	Raynor Park	7.00
1961	Serra Park	6.75
1964	Murphy Park	5.38
1965	Braly Park	5.63
1965	Las Palmas Park	6.50
1965	Ortega Park	8.66
1965	Ponderosa Park	9.10
1965	Municipal Golf Course	145.00
1965	Community Center (developed in 1973)	20.84
1973	Sunken Gardens Golf Course	30.00
1974	Las Palmas Park (Additional Acquisition)	11.32
1974	Bicycle Path	10.00
1975	Fairwood Playground	1.93
1975	Serra Park (Additional Acquisition)	4.70
1976	Arboretum Land Acquisition	12.20
1976	Municipal Tennis Center	3.80
1976	Tennis Center (Additional Acquisition)	2.70
1978	Mathilda/El Camino	1.10
1979	Raynor Park (Acquisition of School)	7.67
1979	Orchard Gardens Park (Additional Acquisition)	1.00
1983	San Antonio Park	5.96
1984	Senior Center	3.75
1984	Panama Park	4.91
1985	Columbia Park	14.94
1986	Baylands Park	170.00
1987	Encinal Park	4.26
1987	Cannery Park	0.69
1989	Ortega Park (Additional Acquisition)	9.40
1990	Morse Avenue Park	5.33
1991	Baylands Park (Additional Acreage)	7.00

Age distribution changes will be most dramatic in the 35-55 year-old group as the "baby boomers" continue to move into the next step of the age curve. Significant growth will also occur in the 70+ group. The median age will continue to increase from the 31.1 of 1980 to 39.8 in 1995. These trends are a continuation of the recent past, and no real changes are expected through 2005.

Average household size, at 2.36 persons, is slightly less than the County average. Income characteristics for Sunnyvale residents are not likely to differ substantially from current conditions. With a 1990 average household income of \$49,600, the overall range and distribution of household income is also comparable to the County as a whole.

Sunnyvale is the second largest employment center in Santa Clara County, with 135,500 jobs in 1990, and 148,600 expected in 2005.

The primary location for anticipated population growth is in the northern part of the community.

## **Organizational and Financial Framework**

### **Advisory Bodies**

There are three advisory groups which advise the City Council on issues related to the provision of the recreation, parks and open space system. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a five-member advisory body which reviews the development, operation and use of the City parks and recreation facilities and programs. Additionally, it reviews budget issues, policies and regulations affecting the City's parks and recreation system, as well as the funding of community recreational, athletic and human services groups to facilitate public access to these programs and activities. The Arts Commission is also a five-member body which advises the City Council on issues related to arts in the community and development, funding and promotion of arts projects and activities. The Planning Commission is a seven-member advisory body which reviews the development and implementation of the City's General Plan and its various

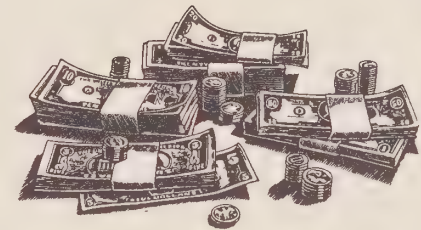




elements. In addition, it makes recommendations to the Council regarding zoning, permits, ordinances and other land use policies and procedures.

### Revenue Sources

Funding for acquisition and development of open space sites and facilities has come from several sources. The voters, during the 1950's and 1960's, approved bonds to purchase and improve parks throughout the City. More recently, the City has used General Fund monies as well as County, State and Federal funds to purchase, improve and maintain parks and other open space. Other revenue sources have included park dedication in-lieu fees, park and recreation activity revenues, and contributions from individuals, business and industry. Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, as part of their 25th anniversary in 1981, gave the City \$50,000 towards the development of open space and recreation facilities at Baylands Park. ESL, Inc., also committed \$40,000 to augment the development funds allocated for Sunnyvale Baylands Park.



Future funding patterns are not as clear. Federal and State grants have become less available and, therefore, more competitive, and are not likely to be a significant source of funding in the future. Current educational funding policies in California appear to make substantial funding contributions from school districts unlikely as well. Current limitations on property tax increases restrict the future potential for significant funding from this source with a 2/3 vote required for any property tax supported bond issue. Revenues from recreational activities, however, have grown over the years and represented 35% of the Recreation Division's operating funds in the 1989-90 fiscal year budget. While the City also encourages donations and contributions to the parks and open space program from individuals, business and industry, such gifts cannot be of such a nature to require special long-term maintenance efforts. Creative financing and innovative agreements are also pursued to effectively develop, maintain and manage the City's open space system.

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of properties."

Currently, the City has a \$5.0 million Open Space Reserve designated for the future acquisition of properties to implement established open space policies and insure the development of a comprehensive parks and open space system. Once land is acquired, the planned projects are funded for development through the 10-year capital budget program.

In 1981, the City Council passed a Park Dedication Ordinance that permits the collection of in-lieu fees from developments which result in property subdivisions that create new lots for residential purposes. These fees vary according to the type of development, the density and the fair market value of the property. By state law, these fees are to be used within five years for park development or capital improvement in the neighborhood planning area where the development is located. In fiscal year 1990-91, revenue from park dedication in-lieu fees was \$2,280,539, which will be utilized in six of the nine neighborhood planning areas.

#### Changes Since 1981

In 1982, a Cultural Arts Committee was formed to respond to the demonstrated needs and interests of citizens for a wide range of arts programs. This five-member group served in an advisory capacity to guide the City in the development and implementation of a diversified cultural arts program focused on the appreciation of artistic performances and exhibitions and participation in classes, workshops, performances and exhibitions. In 1984, the Cultural Arts Committee became the Arts Commission.

In 1991, a Park Dedication Ordinance which requires park dedication fees for apartments was approved. It is anticipated that this will result in an additional \$2,340,000 in revenue over the next ten years to be available for future open space/park acquisition and development.

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## Planning Considerations and Issues

Policies contained in this document will form the basis for determining the level at which the Open Space Reserve should be maintained in order to continue providing a comprehensive and effective park and open space system. The appropriate Reserve level may be less than or greater than the recently updated standard of \$5 million. The Reserve level would be based upon these key factors: 1) need to acquire additional park property because of significant population increases; 2) acquisition opportunities at below market values, such as required by the 1970's Naylor legislation that cities receive first opportunity to acquire school properties; 3) opportunities to utilize open space sites through lease or joint use agreements rather than direct acquisition; 4) availability of outside revenue sources which can be used for open space acquisition; and 5) opportunities for school open space acquisitions based upon agreements with the City. It is important that additional efforts be made in the research and pursuit of outside grant sources, other private gifts or donations and revenue-generating strategies to support open space acquisition and development activities. Receipt of additional monies from these sources would lessen the need for General Fund support. The recent commitment made by ESL, Inc. to encourage the local industrial community to join with them to financially contribute to the development of Sunnyvale Baylands Park is a significant opportunity to include the private sector in the City's efforts to develop and maintain quality open space and needs to be strongly supported.

## Open Space Management

Management of open space in the 1990's presents a variety of challenges which require innovative policies and strategies. Since the Open Space Sub-Element was last adopted in 1981, changes in the environmental, economic and social arenas have made it necessary to modify its approaches in several key areas.



## Environmental Quality

In approaching the 1990's, unprecedented emphasis and urgency are being placed on environmental issues. Every day there are reports in the media regarding global warming, noise/air/water pollution, use of known toxic materials in industries ranging from computers to agriculture and local and national solid waste disposal crises. Environmental issues have become topics of everyday conversation and concern for the average citizen. As such, environmental issues play a key role in the design, development and operation of the City's park and open space system.



Documented goals relative to the City's landscape maintenance and other tasks involving pesticide use include the pursuit of "integrated pest management" (IPM). In other words, pest problems are routinely monitored and controls are implemented only after pest levels exceed established thresholds. Chemical controls are used only after careful consideration is given to a wide variety of other options, including mechanical methods (e.g., the removal of aphids by water) and cultural methods (e.g., the use of mulches to discourage weed growth). California has enacted some of the strictest pesticide use laws in the country. Sunnyvale's Parks and Recreation Department is not only in compliance with all Federal and State laws, but has chosen to further restrict and regulate its own chemical use.

Management and maintenance of large areas of turf, shrubs and other plant materials and the operation of swimming, wading, and ornamental pools and fountains require large quantities of water. Water conservation and effective management practices are extremely important in the midst of current severe drought conditions. In May 1990, the City amended the municipal code to address the need for long-term water management. The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act was passed by the State legislature in January 1991. Some of the conservation policies and practices currently utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department include: the irrigation of landscaped areas during non-daylight hours only; utilization of California Management Irrigation System; reduction in frequency of sports fields watering; greater uses of hand watering; washing of tennis courts on a monthly rather than weekly basis; reduction in

fertilizer application and increase in acceptable turf grass height; not filling ornamental pools or fountains; and future retrofitting of the park irrigation system to connect with a centralized computer which will improve and monitor efficient water use. In addition, water re-use, particularly use of waste water from the treatment plant, has been tested at the golf course and is anticipated to be an important operational and interpretive feature of the Baylands park project. Furthermore, the Council has adopted a policy of not going forward with the new City landscaping projects until such time as the drought emergency is over. This may impact the construction schedule for improvements at some sites in the future.

Conservation of other material resources (i.e., glass, aluminum, paper) through recycling and re-use is also a key component of protecting the environment. The recycling of aluminum is currently considered the most recognized and popular form of recycling. Therefore, a pilot program was initiated in late 1990 for recycling aluminum at four park sites with heavy community and group usage. Containers are located in areas of high activity where the drinking of beverages from cans is most likely to occur, such as near picnic sites and ballfield bleachers. The program is intended to heighten the public's awareness of, and exposure to, recycling in an effort to educate and motivate citizens not currently participating in recycling efforts. Based upon the results of the pilot study, expansion of the program to additional sites throughout the park system will be considered.

### Site Maintenance Program

The City's park system is known nationally for its quality in both design and maintenance. Documented quality standards identify the desired conditions of tangible park features. Through periodic inspection, the condition of each park feature is evaluated and identified annually through established performance indicators. Generally, these maintenance standards relate to function, appearance and safety in each of the following areas: turf; trees; perennial ground covers and shrubs; annual ground cover; general grounds, structures and fixtures; and recreational facilities. These specific and measurable standards provide the

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direction to effectively meet established service levels related to the maintenance of the recreation, park and open space sites and facilities.

### Capital Improvement Program

For several years, the approach to capital budgeting in the 10-year Plan had been to "master plan" one park site at a time, addressing all existing deficiencies, anticipated problems and desired improvements for that site simultaneously. This concept enabled staff to concentrate on one site at a time and to coordinate input from a variety of interested parties. It also allowed for projects which might be otherwise handled separately, such as the installation of public art, to be folded into a master plan. Given the large number of park sites in the City's system, "master planning" one site per year placed the cycle for each park on a 15 to 20-year improvement calendar. The more sites acquired or in the system, the longer the wait between renovations. Since not all components of each park deteriorate at the same rate, maintaining the infrastructure of the system requires that replacement schedules also be established and implemented.

Both processes, to maintain the existing infrastructure of facilities in a safe and functional condition and to master plan a site to alter its original design or function, are of equal importance. Therefore, in fiscal year 1989-90, the Parks Division implemented a budget restructure and park evaluation program that facilitates the identification of routine, recurring operational activities and supports related ongoing costs through the operating budget. This process, which includes an annual assessment and inventory of each site, emphasizes ongoing maintenance of the various components of the park infrastructure and identifies specific sites which are appropriate for the master planning approach. Each of these approaches has an important place in the 10-year capital improvement program.



## System-Wide Needs Assessment

With the restructure of the Parks Division program and budget, it became evident that a fresh look at the existing park and open space system was necessary to evaluate the extent to which the community's needs were being met. In 1991, a comprehensive needs assessment study to analyze the current and future needs for facility enhancements was initiated. This will address issues which are not covered by existing projects and will be considered a planning guide to meet the recreation and leisure needs of the general public as well as special interest groups. The 10-year capital improvement plan includes design and development of park and recreation enhancement projects identified as high priorities in this needs assessment.

## Accessibility of the Park System

In an effort to make the City's park system accessible to the entire community, considerable effort has been made since the early 1980's to identify and eliminate physical barriers to the use of park sites and facilities by persons with disabilities. These have included the establishment of designated handicapped parking spaces, the installation of play apparatus designed specifically for disabled children, and the inclusion of accessible park furniture such as picnic tables and barbecues.

A study was completed in 1991 which evaluates the accessibility of each site in the park system. This study will identify the extent to which sites are currently meeting State and Federal guidelines for accessibility, determine what actions and monies are needed to address any deficiencies, and recommend specific policies, guidelines and desirable features related to accessibility which are not addressed by state or federal law. The City's goal is to insure that the open space and park system is available to, and used by, all segments of the City's population.



## Art in Public Places



The Cultural Arts Division of the Parks and Recreation Department administers the Public Art Master Plan. In 1992, five of the 34 pieces are outdoor sculptures which are seen by thousands of people each year. These pieces of art add a unique and expressive dimension to the open space areas around the City's public buildings. Artwork is also planned as an integral interpretative feature of Sunnyvale Baylands Park and is scheduled for placement in five other open space/park projects between 1992 and 1999. Additional information regarding the City's Public Art Program is contained in the Cultural Arts Sub-Element.

## Citizen Participation

Citizen involvement in the development and evaluation of specific park site plans is a high priority. This is accomplished by notifying interested parties of Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council meetings at which site plans will be presented and discussed, conducting neighborhood meetings for the same purpose, having individual meetings with citizens and responding to telephone inquiries. These strategies have been highly successful for incorporating public comments into the design stage of capital improvement projects.

Customer comments regarding actual site use are encouraged and addressed in a formal comment process which includes a written follow-up with the citizen. Staff at the individual park sites are involved in identifying and resolving problems and issues raised by the public. Citizen participation in the actual implementation of the open space/park system is also encouraged. Groups such as the Sunnyvale Garden Club and Re-Leaf have been involved in landscaping projects at various park sites.

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## Planning Considerations and Issues

One significant issue which will need to be addressed in the future is related to environmental protection. It is anticipated that new and revised regulations will be developed by the Federal, State and County levels of government which will require the City to identify alternatives to utilizing specific types and amounts of chemicals for turf and landscape management. Related to this are hazardous materials storage regulations which affect both central and field site work areas.

Use of reclaimed water is currently being tested; however, the effects of long-term use have yet to be determined. Currently, potable water is needed to supplement the use of reclaimed supplies in order to flush the turf of phosphates, salts and minerals that are not easily leached through the soil structure. The plans for development and maintenance of Baylands Park include the use of reclaimed water. Utilization of reclaimed water should be considered throughout the open space system, particularly as sites are developed/redeveloped.

Recent passage of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act legislation may have future implications for both capital improvement and programmatic standards related to park development. It will be critical to monitor the implementation guidelines and incorporate them into the City's design criteria. Reviewing these requirements will be mandatory for all future projects.

Any or all of these issues may impact how the City's quality standards related to park and open space management are designed and evaluated in the future.



## City Open Space System

### National Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has standards and guidelines that recommend a park system, at a minimum, be composed of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. While these national standards are useful to local planning efforts, it is important



that municipal park systems are designed to meet the specific conditions and needs of that community.

In 1992, there are 6.9 acres of open space per 1,000 people, which is within the range advocated by NRPA. Unlike many areas of the country, expanses of open space within the developed urban areas is less common; large expanses of open space are preserved largely in hillside communities and adjacent areas. This is the case in Santa Clara County with thousands of acres preserved by the County and Midpeninsula Open Space District.

### Site Classifications

In order to inventory, evaluate and analyze open space sites and facilities, a classification system is essential. The City's open space and park system includes sites which are available specifically for use by the public and for a variety of recreational purposes.

### Regional Parks

Regional parks tend to be large-scale in terms of size and include major natural resources with related outdoor recreation opportunities. Scenic beauty, wildlife, native plants, and historical significance are usually all part of the attraction of regional open space areas.

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the cornerstone of the City's open space system and are designed to meet the needs of the residents in each of the nine Neighborhood Planning Areas. Though they are intended to primarily serve the neighborhood residents, these parks also draw people from throughout the community, including those who work in or visit Sunnyvale. Based on available land, location and need, neighborhood parks may include open turf areas, multi-purpose hard surface



areas, playground equipment and picnic areas. They are generally accessible by pedestrians in the neighborhood without the need to cross major streets or thoroughfares.

### Athletic/Play Fields

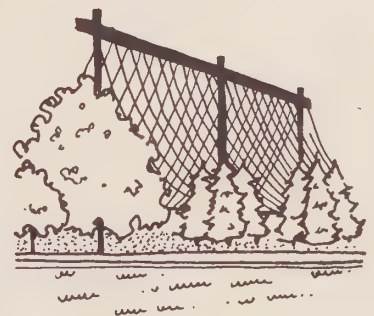
Athletic/play fields provide facilities for informal and organized sports activities. Fields range from regulation size facilities for specific athletic activities to multi-purpose open spaces of various sizes with goals, backstops, and a variety of other amenities. Use is either on a drop-in basis or scheduled through the Parks and Recreation Department.

### Trails

Linear parcels of varying lengths developed as multi-purpose trails supplement the standard park open space inventory. Recreational use is typically for pedestrian or bicycle activities. While trails may be self-contained as a recreational use area, they may also provide a physical link and transportation route between recreational sites and facilities.

### Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities are an integral part of the open space system providing opportunities to participate in diverse activities not generally accommodated in neighborhood parks. They are located throughout the community at sites where physical resources best accommodate the particular activity. Special use facilities are unique and not typical of developments in neighborhood parks or athletic/play fields. These facilities have a focused programmatic emphasis and require specialized management techniques and strategies. Special use facilities include such sites as a golf course, bowling green, arboretum, tennis center, and landscaped areas for public art.



**FIGURE 3**

**CITY OPEN SPACE INVENTORY**

<b><u>STATUS AND SITE</u></b>	<b><u>ACRES</u></b>	<b><u>UNIQUE FEATURES</u></b>
<b>CITY OWNED</b>		
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
Braly Park	5.63	Ornamental pool
Cannery Park	0.69	Mini-park with play area
DeAnza Park	9.29	Spanish Aztec-style equipment; accessible play area
Encinal Park	4.26	Designed to serve residents and industry
Fairwood Park	1.93	Mini-park with play area
Greenwood Manor	0.42	Mini-park with play area
Lakewood Park	10.70	Space theme equipment; swimming pool
Las Palmas Park	17.82	Water features; island theme playground
Morse Avenue Park	5.33	Future development planned
Murphy Park	5.38	Lawn bowling green; Historical Museum
Orchard Gardens Park	2.57	Mini-park with tennis courts and play area
Ortega Park	18.06	Gazebo; cricket field
Ponderosa Park	9.10	Western theme play equipment
Raynor Park	14.67	Activity center; day care; artist studios
Serra Park	11.45	Tennis courts; water feature
Washington Park	<u>11.85</u>	City's first park; swimming pool
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>129.15</b>	
<b>Athletic/Play Fields</b>		
Panama Park	4.91	Multi-purpose field
San Antonio Park	<u>5.96</u>	Multi-purpose field
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>10.87</b>	
<b>Trails</b>		
Bicycle Path	10.00	Off-street pedestrian/bicycle path
Levee Trail	<u>5.17</u>	Recreational trail for pedestrian activities
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15.17</b>	
<b>Special Use Parks/Facilities</b>		
Community Ctr.	22.04	4-bldg complex; water features; passive open space
Fair Oaks Park	15.28	Baseball and soccer fields; future athletic complex
Las Palmas Tennis Ctr. and Orchard	6.50	Multiple tennis courts; Pro Shop
Mathilda/El Camino	1.10	Passive open space; sculpture
Orchard Heritage Park (Arboretum)	11.00	Garden center
Sunken Gardens Golf Crs.	30.00	9-hole golf course; restaurant; Pro Shop
S'vale Muni Golf Course	109.50	18-hole golf course; restaurant; Pro Shop
Three Points Corner	<u>.76</u>	Passive open space
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>196.18</b>	
<b>CITY MAINTAINED</b>		
<b>Regional Parks</b>		
Baylands Park	<u>177.00</u>	Large open space; trails; seasonal wetlands
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>177.00</b>	



<u>STATUS AND SITE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNIQUE FEATURES</u>
<b>CITY MAINTAINED (cont'd)</b>		
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
Columbia Park/School	<u>14.94</u>	Swimming pool; 2 multi-purpose fields
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>14.94</b>	
<b>Athletic/Play Fields</b>		
Bishop School	3.17	2 multi-purpose fields
Cherry Chase School	5.56	1 multi-purpose field
Cumberland School	5.31	1 multi-purpose field
Cupertino Jr. High	12.86	3 multi-purpose fields; track; stadium field
DeAnza School	5.77	1 multi-purpose field
Ellis School	4.50	1 multi-purpose field
Fairwood School	4.60	1 multi-purpose field
Hollenbeck School	5.54	1 multi-purpose field
Lakewood School	4.59	2 multi-purpose field
Nimitz School	3.80	1 multi-purpose field
San Miguel School	5.61	1 multi-purpose field
Serra School	6.26	2 multi-purpose fields
Stockmeier School	3.48	1 multi-purpose field
Sunnyvale Middle School	15.10	3 multi-purpose fields
Vargas School	5.07	1 multi-purpose field
West Valley School	<u>4.62</u>	1 multi-purpose field
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>95.84</b>	
<b>Trails</b>		
Bicycle Path	<u>16.57</u>	Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16.57</b>	
<b>Special Use Parks/Facilities</b>		
Senior Center	3.75	6-building multi-purpose complex
S'vale Muni Golf Course	<u>35.50</u>	Property leased from U.S. Navy
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>39.25</b>	
<b>NON-CITY MAINTAINED</b>		
<b>Athletic/Play Fields</b>		
Braly School	4.60	1 multi-purpose field
Fremont High School	15.00	Multi-purpose fields; pool; track
Patrick Henry (closed)	28.30	3 multi-purpose fields
Peterson Middle School	24.00	3 multi-purpose fields; pool; track
Ponderosa School	5.00	1 multi-purpose field
S'vale High School (closed)	13.60	Multi-purpose fields
Twin Creeks Sports Comp.	<u>53.00</u>	10 lighted softball fields; restaurant
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>143.50</b>	
<b>City Owned and Maintained</b>	<b>351.37</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>City Maintained</b>	<b>343.60</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Non-City Maintained</b>	<b><u>143.50</u></b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Total City Open Space</b>	<b>838.47</b>	<b>Acres</b>

## Open Space Inventory

### Introduction

The City's 838-acre, comprehensive park and open space system includes a planned regional park, 17 neighborhood parks, 25 athletic/play field sites, two trails/paths, and eight special use facilities. These sites and facilities are either owned by the City, owned by other public entities and managed by the City, owned by a school district or other public entity, and utilized by the City for recreational purposes or owned privately for general public use.

### Regional Park

Sunnyvale Baylands Park was originally considered a regional park to be developed and managed by the County of Santa Clara. As a result of Proposition 13 and other financial constraints of the County, development of the park (originally planned for construction in 1985), was deferred. Instead, funds contemplated for development were utilized by the County for maintenance and operations of existing parks. This eventually provided a unique opportunity for a joint partnership whereby the City assumed primary responsibilities for planning, development and operations of Baylands Park. Santa Clara County's contribution is a significant portion of necessary capital development funds. This cooperative venture between the City and County was formalized in April, 1986.

The overall planning and development goal of this unique park is to protect, enhance and interpret the seasonal wetlands on the site while also providing outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities for public use. A refined Master Plan, approved by both the City Council and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission in July 1990, has created an effective balance between these distinct objectives. Baylands Park is strongly supported by local environmental groups and received the Environmental Action Award for 1989 from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society for developing an environmentally sensitive plan for the park. It is anticipated

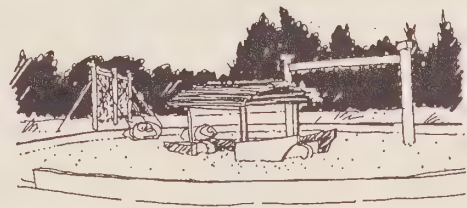


that the park will open in the early 1990's. Baylands Park will be maintained and operated with City funds.

As the City's landfill site, adjacent to Baylands Park, is capped off and no longer used as an active site, opportunities exist to incorporate that acreage as part of Baylands Park. This would represent a significant addition to the City's open space system in the next 10-20 years.

### Neighborhood Parks

The Sunnyvale parks and open space system is nationally known for its innovative and quality design. It is built on the neighborhood park concept whereby each resident has an open space area within a reasonable walking distance from his/her home. Generally speaking, there is a neighborhood park or other open space area within 1/4-1/2 mile of every City residence. A "neighborhood" is defined, in part, by having a park, school and shopping available without the need to cross a major thoroughfare. The City's 17 neighborhood parks range in size from less than one acre to nearly 20 acres, each with a unique character which complements the surrounding area. All parks are oriented towards providing a variety of recreational opportunities, both active/passive and formal/informal. Additionally, each park has a different design theme which allows the system to be varied and interesting to the entire community.



### Athletic Fields

There are four major users of the athletic/play fields throughout the City; these include the schools, the Parks and Recreation Department City-sponsored activities, the co-sponsored youth sports groups and the general public. City staff schedules the use of all fields City-wide for each of these groups according to the City's "Facility Reservation Policies." Use of the fields located on school property is dictated by individual City/School agreements for specific sites. The quality of the athletic fields managed by the City is superior to those managed by the various school districts, thereby



making some fields more desirable to the user groups. The fields which have a lower maintenance quality tend to be used primarily for practice rather than official games. There are 46 multi-purpose fields, of which, the City owns 13. These multi-purpose fields are used primarily as ball fields or soccer fields, depending on seasonal demand. The Fremont Union High School District has additional multi-purpose fields.

FIGURE 4



1981 OPEN SPACE/PARK SYSTEM



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# FIGURE 5



## OPEN SPACE/PARK SYSTEM



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



## School Open Space

There are four school districts currently operating 14 schools in Sunnyvale and serving students in grades K-12. Each of these districts has experienced downsizing in the last 15 years due to population shifts. As a result of school closures and innovative approaches to cooperative management, the City has been able to reserve and create additional open space for community use. Open space adjacent to school sites is an integral part of the City's open space system. While the amenities have been designed specifically for school purposes, they are also used by neighborhood residents and others for recreational activities after school and on the weekends and in some cases, represent the only easily accessible open space to certain sub-neighborhoods.

It is clear that the City depends upon the open space located on school property to complement the park sites and athletic/play fields owned by the City. Historically, the City and the school districts operating schools within City boundaries have worked cooperatively regarding joint use to maximize the availability of sites and facilities for both parties. The City has had a variety of cooperative agreements with each of the school districts since the 1950's. The City currently has agreements with three of the four school districts for the joint use of specified open space areas and facilities. In addition, the City has a long-term lease with the Sunnyvale Elementary School District for the use of the former Adair Elementary School, which now functions as the City's Senior Center.

In 1985, Council approved a "School Open Space City/School Development Policy" to facilitate future joint development, maintenance and use opportunities at both open and closed school sites. The City and the school districts recognize there is a need to preserve open space at school sites for general community recreation use. Due to limited school district maintenance funds, the overall turf quality at the school sites has decreased the availability of usable open space. Because some neighborhoods are particularly dependent upon schools as the only facilities in close proximity, it was deemed necessary to consider a planned program of City-financed school athletic field upgrades and subsequent ongoing maintenance by the City. Priority was originally placed on

**"The City and the school districts recognize there is a need to preserve open space at school sites for general community recreation use."**

those sites which had closed or been permitted to deteriorate to a substandard level. Assisting the school districts in improving open space at school sites provides the greatest potential for multiple use by the community for recreational purposes.

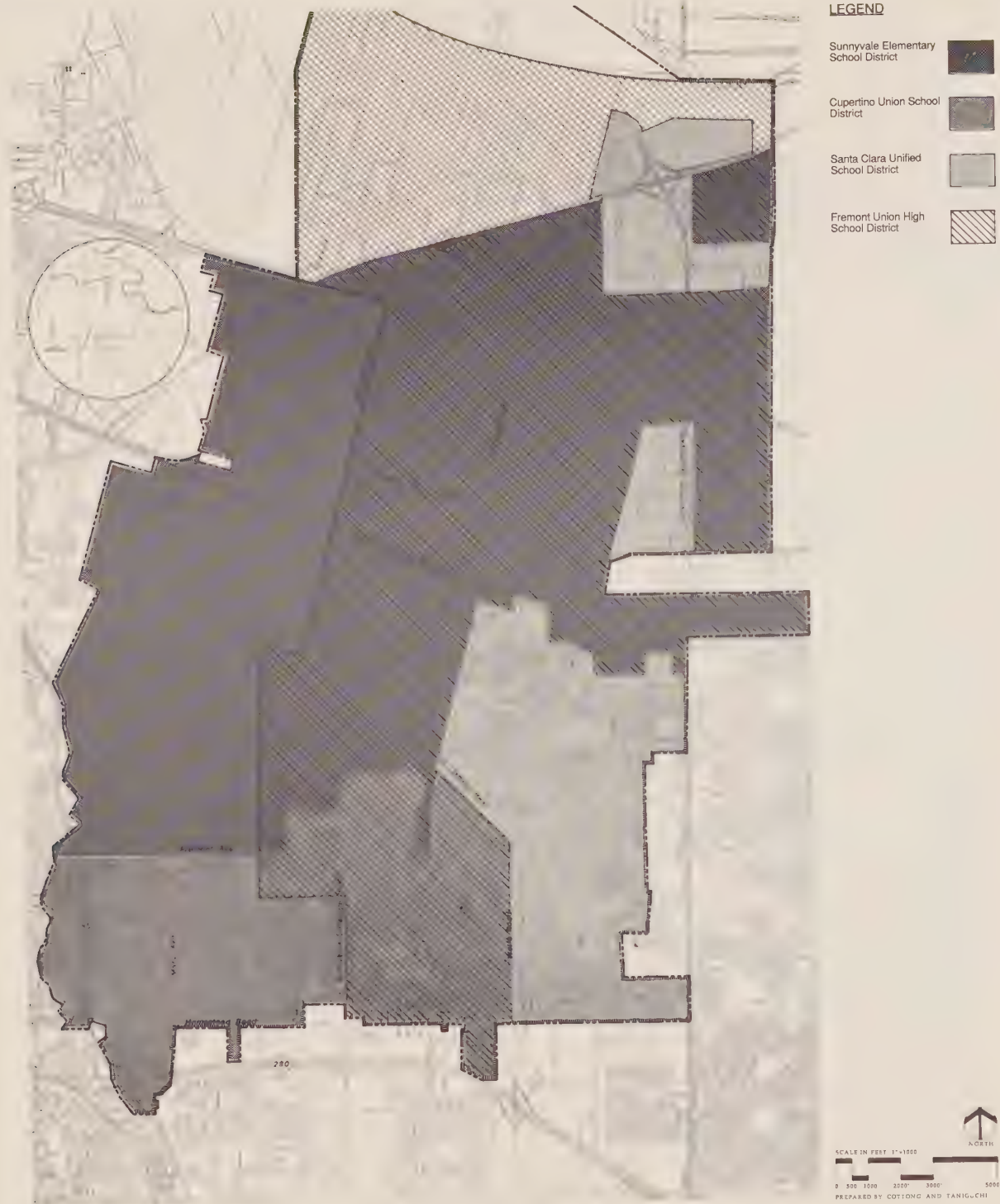
This policy framework has worked well in developing a number of sites within the Sunnyvale School District. The City developed and maintains 16 acres of open space at Columbia School as a neighborhood park. The City and the District shared equally the development and maintenance costs for 4.2 acres at Hollenbeck School and 4.5 acres at Cherry Chase School. Before the open space policy was adopted, the City already maintained the turf areas of 3.4 acres at Lakewood School, 4.9 at De Anza School and 14.1 acres at Sunnyvale Junior High School; the City continues to maintain these turf areas.



The City also has implemented this policy with the Cupertino Union School District. In the Cupertino School District, the City purchased 4.9 acres at the Panama School site, and now maintains that property. The City developed and maintains 5.0 acres of open space property at the Serra School site, where the property is owned by the District. Additionally, the City has purchased, developed and maintains 6.0 acres of open space at the San Antonio School site.

In May, 1989, the City and the Cupertino Union School District reached an agreement that implemented a unique partnership between the City and the District. This agreement represents a win-win situation for both parties by allowing the City to offer attractive, improved open space for community recreational purposes while helping the District in its school refurbishing program by upgrading the facilities.

FIGURE 6



## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

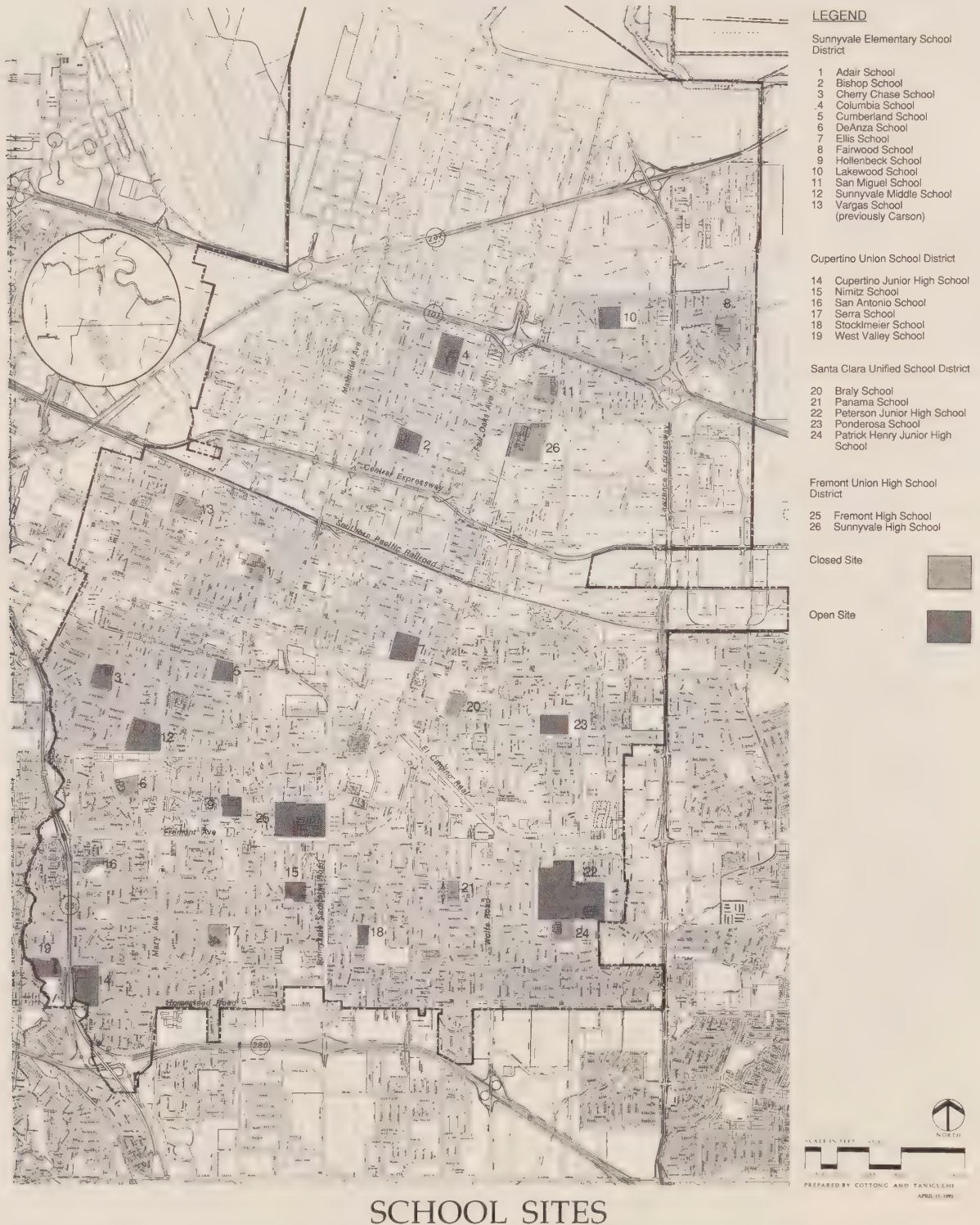


CITY OF SUNNYVALE

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



FIGURE 7



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Key components of this agreement include: 1) deeding to the City 9.4 acres of open space property at Ortega School; 2) renovation and maintenance by the City of the open space sites at Ortega, Stocklmeier, Nimitz, Cupertino Junior High and West Valley schools; 3) maintenance of these properties by the City for 25 years in exchange for the District agreeing not to dispose of any of these properties during that time period; and 4) City control over the open space facility reservations and usage, giving priority to the schools during normal school hours.



There are a number of benefits to the City in this arrangement. The Ortega site, designated as a high priority for acquisition in the 1981 Open Space Sub-Element, is now owned by the City. Enhancement of the sites by redeveloping and maintaining them has added significantly to the inventory of quality recreational open space available to City residents and will enhance the aesthetics of the community as well. The 25-year agreement with the District will preclude having to use the Open Space Reserve to purchase any additional open space sites from the Cupertino School District until 2014. Though it is not on the list of high priority sites, the ability of the City to redevelop Cupertino Junior High School, with its 11 acres of open space, has created an opportunity to significantly enhance the recreational opportunities available to the community. This site has the potential to be developed into a superior, family-oriented athletic recreation facility. These transactions added 33 acres to the existing open space inventory.

This agreement has become a model for City/School District cooperation and a similar arrangement is also now in place with the Sunnyvale Elementary School District. Approved in June, 1991, the City and School District entered an agreement for the planning, improvement, use, maintenance and possible acquisition of open space at twelve (12) school sites. The agreement: (1) consolidates eight existing agreements for maintenance and use of individual school sites; (2) provides for the planning, development and maintenance of six additional school open space sites by the City; (3) prohibits the District from selling and/or disposing of ten open space sites, thus assuring the City of continual recreational open space use at these sites through July 1, 2016; (4) requires the City to improve and maintain six school open space sites; (5)



establishes a "reserve bank" of open space property whereby the City would acquire up to eight acres of school open space at no cost to the City at two sites, namely De Anza and Hollenbeck, if the District desired to dispose of those sites; and (6) would add ten other school open space sites to the "reserve bank" if the City does not acquire eight acres within twenty-five years.

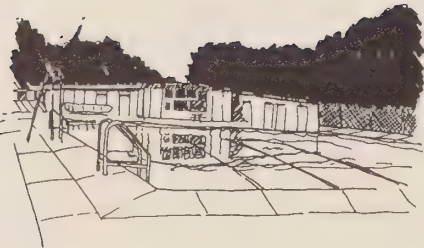
As with the Cupertino agreement, the result is improved recreational opportunities for Sunnyvale residents and long-term preservation and public use of additional open space.

### Trails

Currently, the City has a limited number of established trails used for pedestrian and bicycling activities. These consist of: 1) a bicycle path which runs from Orchard Gardens Park east to Fairwood Park along the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct; and 2) trails which ring the perimeter of the City's salt evaporation ponds north of the Water Pollution Control Plant. Each of these sites is actively used by people who live and work in Sunnyvale. Pedestrian trails are planned in the interior of Baylands Park with linkages to the regional Bay Trail. In order to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists at this site, bicycle access to the Bay Trail will run from the park entrance north along the eastern side of the park parallel to Calabazas Creek.

### Special Use Parks and Facilities

The City owns or leases and operates 235 acres of open space at several special use facilities including an arboretum, two golf courses (one 18-hole and one 9-hole) with restaurant and pro shop facilities, a Tennis Center, a multi-purpose Senior Center and a Community Center complex comprised of a Creative Arts Building, a 200-seat theatre, an Indoor Sports Center, and a Recreation Building for classes, meetings, and auditorium-type uses. Approximately 13 acres of City-owned land are leased to private individuals and currently maintained as fruit orchards.





## Planned Open Space System Improvements, 1991-2000

Currently budgeted in the 10-year Resource Allocation Plan are a number of capital improvements designed to enhance the overall parks and recreation system. Specific projects which address identified open space needs include: 1) the development of Baylands Park; 2) improvement of the athletic fields at Sunnyvale Middle School, Cupertino Junior High, and Nimitz and West Valley Schools; 3) site improvements at Bishop, Cumberland, Ellis, Fairwood, San Miguel and Vargas Schools; 4) enhancements or renovation of DeAnza, Braly, Raynor, Washington, Lakewood, and Greenwood Manor Parks; 5) expansion of Orchard Gardens and Murphy Parks; and 6) development of a new park and adjacent linear parcel on Morse Avenue in the Fair Oaks Business Park area. Also included in the 10-year plan is the development of a major athletic complex at the former Sunnyvale High School site.



Another important open space area will be included in the design of the new Performing Arts Center and plaza to be located in the City's downtown. While this will be significantly different from the rest of the park system, it will add another unique dimension to the City's urban open space.

## Changes Since 1981

The Open Space Sub-Element, adopted in 1981, called for the City to take a number of actions to continue to preserve and maintain open space for neighborhood parks as well as open space at school sites.

The City acquired and developed 63 acres of open space/park land at eight sites throughout the City. The City also designated, as the highest priority, the purchase of closed school sites adjoining community parks if they were to be sold. Since 1981, Braly, Vargas (formerly Carson), De Anza, Fairwood, Ortega and Serra schools have closed; however, the school districts have chosen not to dispose of any of these sites. The City has acquired open space from school districts and made major capital improvements to provide neighborhood parks at San Antonio (5 acres) and



Panama (5 acres) Schools and an additional 10 acres at Ortega Park.

Due to Fair Oaks Park's isolated location, the Sub-Element called for the acquisition or development of the Morse-Madrone school sites. Renamed Columbia School, it now operates as a large elementary school. The City funded, developed and now maintains 16 acres of open space owned by the Sunnyvale School District in a neighborhood park surrounding Columbia School.

In 1985, the City adopted a School Open Space/City/School Development Policy to permit capital development and maintenance and operation at both open and closed school sites. The City has taken major responsibility for improvements and/or maintenance of closed school sites adjoining parks. These include De Anza, San Antonio, Ortega, and Serra schools. The City has also assumed maintenance of open school sites at Cherry Chase, Cupertino Junior High, Fremont High (tennis courts only), Hollenbeck, Lakewood, Nimitz, Stocklmeier, Sunnyvale Middle, and West Valley schools. The City, working with the Sunnyvale School District and participating on a 50-50 basis, made major improvements to the turf and open space areas at Hollenbeck and Cherry Chase Schools and assumed maintenance responsibility. Between 1989 and 1991, new long-term agreements were established between the City and the Cupertino Union and Sunnyvale Elementary School Districts to ensure the availability and community use of quality school open space throughout the City.

In 1989 and 1991, innovative long-term agreements for the preservation, improvement and use of school open space have been made with the Cupertino Union and the Sunnyvale Elementary school sites. Site improvements are planned at 10 schools. The Cupertino Union School District sites include the Cupertino Junior High, Nimitz, Ortega/Stocklmeier, and West Valley School sites. The Sunnyvale Elementary School District sites include the Bishop, Cumberland, Ellis, Fairwood, San Miguel and Vargas school sites.

The completion of the revised Sunnyvale Baylands Park Master Plan was approved by City Council in 1990. It is anticipated that the park will open to the public in the early 1990's.

## Planning Considerations and Issues

### Introduction

The City is currently meeting the vast majority of expressed park and open space needs and interests. However, to continue effectively utilizing the limited open space throughout the City, it is critical that the needs assessment findings guide facility planning with an emphasis on multi-purpose use and a balance between general and special interest activities for sites in the parks/open space system. With anticipated residential growth and change throughout the City and in particular, in the area north of Highway 101 and south of Highway 237, it will be important to evaluate the changing needs of Sunnyvale residents and neighborhoods. This may result in modifications to the established 10-year capital improvement program.

### Neighborhood Parks

In October 1990, the City purchased 5.3 acres on Morse Avenue in the Fair Oaks Business Park area. This transaction was made to secure open space for a neighborhood park in a location which is being rapidly redeveloped from industrial to residential use. It is anticipated, however, that development of this property will not occur until the mid to late 1990's.

### Athletic Fields and School Open Space

The 1981 Open Space Sub-Element identified as a high priority the acquisition of surplus school sites, particularly as athletic/play field sites. The State's Naylor legislation, passed about that same time, afforded the City the opportunity to



"Under 25-year agreements, the City has assumed maintenance responsibility for the open space at 18 school sites."

purchase the open space portion of surplus school sites for open space at 25% of fair market value. While school open space has been acquired during the last ten years according to availability and priority, the current increased availability of quality open space has reduced the urgency and high priority for acquisition.

This shift in priority has been influenced by the innovative and successful cooperative agreements with both the Cupertino Union and Sunnyvale Elementary School Districts. Under 25-year agreements, the City has assumed maintenance responsibility for the open space at 18 school sites. Each of the sites has been, or is planned to be renovated by 1994 and maintained at quality and service levels consistent with City-owned open space. In exchange for development and maintenance of these sites, which consist primarily of athletic/play fields, the City has use of the facilities as well as an option for acquiring the property should it be surplus by the school district(s). These agreements have significantly enhanced the City's open space system, particularly in the northern portion of the City.

Based upon the recent transactions and current negotiations, the City's need to acquire additional school open space has been dramatically reduced since 1981. Therefore, the need to retain a large Open Space Reserve is significantly reduced. However, per Council direction, similar development and maintenance arrangements will be pursued with the Santa Clara School District, though it has only three school sites in Sunnyvale (Braly, Ponderosa, and Peterson/Patrick Henry) at this time. Lack of usable open space is not as critical an issue in the areas where these particular schools are located; however, the open space at Braly and Ponderosa schools is a high priority for City ownership or maintenance should the property be declared surplus because of its location adjacent to existing neighborhood parks. The Peterson/Patrick Henry site will not be needed as a neighborhood park because of its proximity to Raynor Park. The School District has indicated its intent to use both portions of this site as open schools and has expressed the need to Master Plan the property. The City should encourage the School District to develop the open space so it maximizes the potential for both school use and continued use of athletic fields for City purposes.

The Fremont Union High School District has two sites in Sunnyvale. The former Sunnyvale High School site is currently in the 10-year capital improvement program as a future major athletic facility. A portion of this particular facility is considered a priority for addition to the park and open space system as demand for competitive athletic fields continues to increase. While the addition of quality multi-purpose school fields to the City's open space system will satisfy a great deal of demand from youth sports groups, the need still exists for specialized fields for adult league use, particularly in the evening. The former Sunnyvale High School site is ideal for this purpose due to its location and available amenities. Based upon the Master Plan completed in 1985, the development of this site as a major athletic complex will reduce the impact of competitive sports league activities on the neighborhood parks throughout the City. A detailed plan has not been established as the lease agreement between the School District and its current tenant is in force until 1992 and the site has not yet been declared surplus. The open space and portion of the existing building on this site are a priority for acquisition or lease by the City.

It is unlikely that open space at Fremont High School would be declared surplus in the foreseeable future. If it were, the City may consider pursuing a portion of the site for a neighborhood park to serve this area.

## Trails

Since current recreation participation trends nation-wide indicate walking, hiking, jogging and bicycling are among the most popular forms of outdoor recreation, trail development is a high priority. The City of San Francisco Water Department, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern Pacific Railroad all have property in Sunnyvale which falls under their jurisdictions. For the most part, this property is in linear parcels, such as the railroad right-of-way and the flood control channels. Each of these entities has policies regarding public use of their properties. Pursuing the feasibility of joint use of these areas is important because it could substantially complement the City's open space system at a low cost. Other cities, both

**"Current recreation participation trends nation-wide indicate walking, hiking, jogging and bicycling are among the most popular forms of outdoor recreation."**

locally and nationally, are also looking to these types of parcels for public recreational use.

The City entered into a lease agreement with the City of San Francisco Water Department in 1974 for a portion of the area adjacent to the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct which runs through the City. The City is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the permitted 80 foot right-of-way leased area and may not allow use by unauthorized motor driven vehicles on the property. Expanding the lease portion of this linear parcel is an option that could be considered to provide a high quality recreational resource which links four of the City's existing open space sites.



Another possible combination is pursuing the joint use of property owned or controlled by the Santa Clara Valley Water District which runs along flood channels, such as the West Channel. This is a popular pedestrian trail which adjoins the area south of the City's Water Pollution Control Plant and landfill site to the levee trail around the salt evaporation pond. This could provide an important access link to the regional Bay Trail and nearby Baylands Park.

With the planned closure of the Sunnyvale landfill site in the mid 1990's, additional open space acreage will become available and maintained as part of Baylands Park. It is anticipated that pedestrian trails will be developed on the 30-acre West Hill site and around the perimeter of the entire 93-acre site to be used for hiking, jogging and bird watching. Regulatory approval is necessary prior to granting public access to this future open space area.

The Stevens Creek Park Chain concept, proposed by the County of Santa Clara in 1961, was developed as a means to preserve linear stream open spaces through the highly populated cities of Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Cupertino. It is planned to begin at Shoreline Park, heading south through Sunnyvale connecting with trails in Stevens Creek Park and Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. Comprehensive use and management guidelines for the Stevens Creek Corridor were developed in 1980 for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the City of Mountain View. The document, Stevens Creek: A Place of Opportunities, outlines the goals



for its development as a natural resource and recreational opportunity in an urban setting. The Trail Center, a private non-profit volunteer organization which promotes quality non-motorized trail opportunities in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties, is the agency spearheading the effort to coordinate the completion of the Stevens Creek Corridor. The City of Mountain View is currently designing the first segment, from Shoreline Park to El Camino Real, which is planned to be constructed in phases with an estimated completion date of 1998.

The Stevens Creek trail corridor is a lower priority due to the significant financial commitment for both project development and maintenance and citizen concerns regarding the potential impacts on residences and neighborhoods adjacent to the trail.

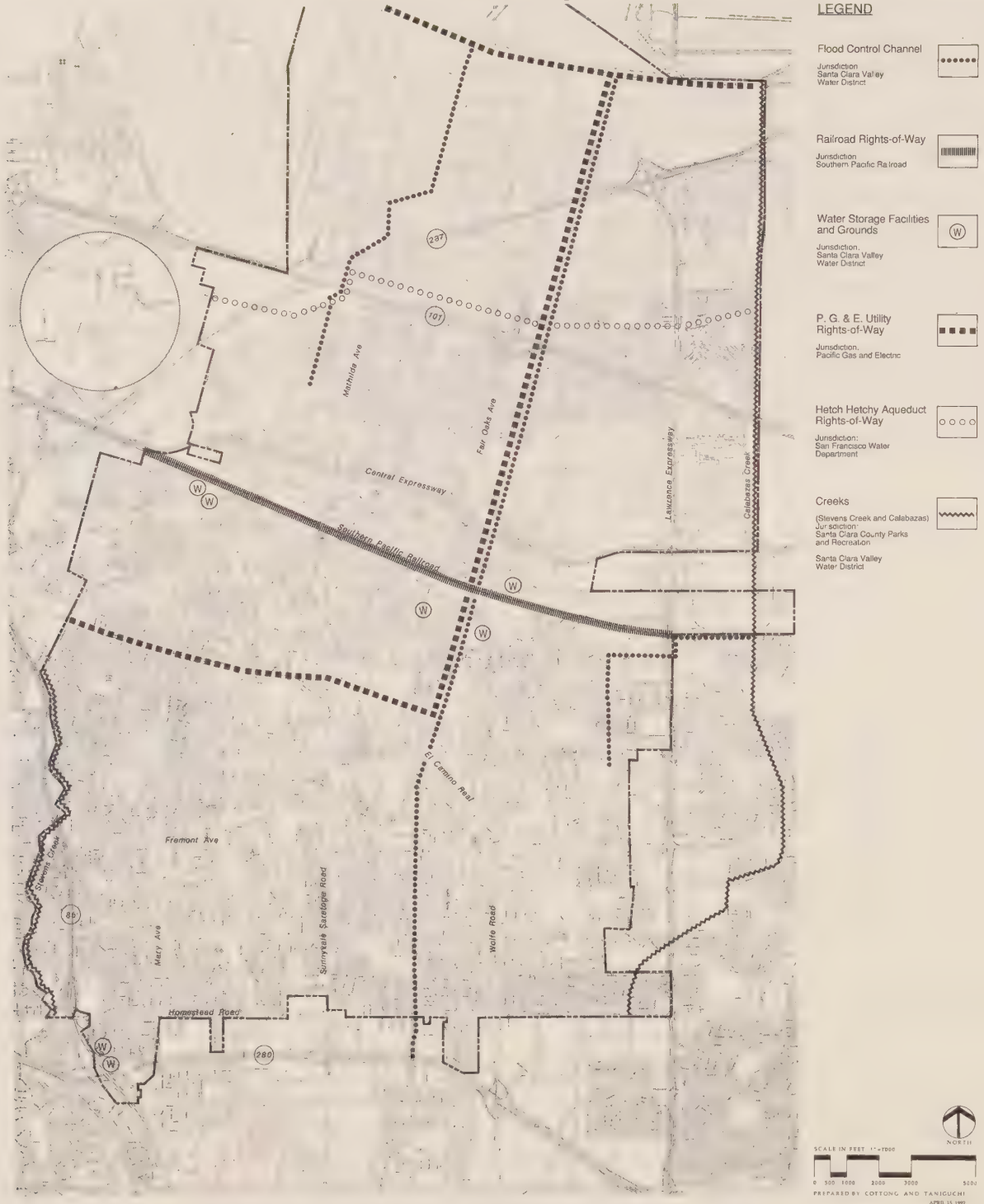
### Special Use Parks and Facilities

Since 1977, the City has owned a 10-acre parcel adjacent to the Community Center complex and has maintained it under an Orchard Agreement with a private individual as a working apricot orchard. The Sunnyvale Historical Society has presented a proposal to the City to designate this site as an Orchard Heritage Park because of its significance in reflecting the City's early agricultural history. Due to the gradual disappearance of orchard land caused by urban development, this site would be preserved as a working orchard in future years and utilized as a cultural and natural "living history" interpretive resource. The site would be a particularly unique special use park in the City's open space system.



An opportunity to design another unique public open space is present with the redevelopment of a downtown area. A significant open plaza area is planned for downtown Sunnyvale to be used as a multi-purpose public assembly area. While this will be significantly different than the existing parks and open space areas, it can help to create an open, "park-like" feeling to the built environment of downtown.

FIGURE 8



## PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC OPEN SPACE



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Regional Open Space

### Introduction

Regional parks provide an urban dweller with an opportunity to enjoy a large array of natural resources without having to travel a great distance. Regional parks typically provide features such as large wooded areas, varying topography, resources for picnicking, boating, swimming, naturalist activities, hiking, riding trails, etc. Regional parks complement neighborhood parks by providing many features not normally found within most municipal park systems. In the Santa Clara County area, regional parks serve a population residing within a 30-minute driving distance. Regional parks serving Sunnyvale residents are provided by seven agencies: 1) City of Sunnyvale; 2) City of Mountain View; 3) Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department; 4) Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; 5) Association of Bay Area Governments; 6) State of California Department of Parks and Recreation; and 7) United States Department of Fish and Wildlife. The six outside agencies manage over 10,150 acres of regional parks and open space within reasonable proximity to the City of Sunnyvale.

The municipalities within Santa Clara County have generally looked to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and, more recently, to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), as the primary agencies responsible for the provision of large regional open spaces. While cities provide community, neighborhood and special recreation areas and facilities for their residents with a variety of organized, structured and informal recreation programs, Santa Clara County and the MROSD provide large regional parks which are less developed and, generally, without organized recreation programs. These distinctions in scope of operation and provision of facilities and programs are important to best meet the varied park and open space needs of the region. Development and management of these regional open space sites and facilities contribute positively to the quality of life and environment for Sunnyvale residents.

**"Development and management of these regional open space sites and facilities contribute positively to the quality of life and environment for Sunnyvale residents."**



## Regional Sites and Facilities

### City of Mountain View

The City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation Department owns and operates Shoreline at Mountain View, a 660-acre regional recreation and wildlife area located on the San Francisco Bay in Mountain View.

This regional park features a 50-acre small-boat lake, an 18-hole golf course, historic Rengstorff House, 8 miles of pathways, irrigated meadowlands, wildlife and habitat areas and a self-guided interpretive system. Extensive wetlands include two tidal marshes, 2 sloughs, a seasonal marsh and storm retention basin, 2 creeks and 5 irrigation reservoirs on the golf course.

Management policies for Shoreline at Mountain View park include promoting passive recreational activities such as jogging, walking, bird watching, kite flying, sailing and other such uses, as opposed to promoting the formal recreation programs normally found within urban park systems.

### Santa Clara County

Within Santa Clara County, there are diverse open space lands. A majority of these lands are in the hillside and mountain areas flanking both sides of the Santa Clara Valley. On the west side of the Valley, the heavily forested Santa Cruz Mountains rise sharply to form a beautiful and scenic backdrop for West Valley communities. Across the Valley, the rangeland, open woodlands and remote wilderness areas of the vast Diablo Range cover the eastern half of Santa Clara County. Situated between the San Francisco Bay and the cities of Silicon Valley lie a mosaic of wetlands, sloughs and salt ponds teeming with plant and animal life. On the Valley floor south of the Coyote Narrows, sizable stretches of open space are still found. Agriculture remains an important activity in the fertile Valley floor areas south and east of Gilroy.

The Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation was created in 1956 to meet the recreational and open space



needs of the County's rapidly-growing population. Since its inception, the Department has established 29 separate regional parks encompassing 36,400 acres. Over 2,600 acres of parklands are within a 30-minute driving distance of Sunnyvale. These regional parks are designed to satisfy recreation needs of citizens county-wide. The County also provides a policy framework for a comprehensive program to preserve open space and recognizes the need for coordination with other local jurisdictions.

**"Over 2,600 acres of county parklands are within a 30-minute driving distance of Sunnyvale."**

The County has been working for a number of years toward the implementation of a regional trail system to preserve and enhance creeks, rivers, and bayland edges as natural linear parkways, connect existing county parks and open space, regional parks and trails, and provide access to natural scenic and historic sites and areas. This effort is guided by the Trails and Pathways Committee of the Santa Clara County Intergovernmental Council (IGC) and the Urban Trails and Pathways Master Plan, which is an element of the County's General Plan. Trails identified in this Element and which relate to Sunnyvale include the Bay Trail, Stevens Creek Corridor, and the Aqueduct, Guadalupe Slough and Saratoga Creek Trails.

County parks within close proximity to Sunnyvale include:

Rancho San Antonio Park: 132 acres, 7500 St. Joseph Avenue, Los Altos

Stevens Creek Park: 765 acres, 11401 Stevens Creek Road, Cupertino

Sanborn-Skyline Park: 1,756 acres, 10655 Sanborn Road, Saratoga

#### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The purpose of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) is to preserve a greenbelt of open space following the ridges and baylands of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The MROSD supports low intensity recreational use of its land such as trails and backpack

camps. Presently, the Open Space District places a high priority on providing access to its lands by trail connections with other existing public lands. MROSD parks in close proximity to Sunnyvale include:

Rancho San Antonio Park: 592 acres, 7500 St. Joseph Avenue, Los Altos

Pichetti Ranch Park: 200 acres, 13000 Montebello Road, Cupertino

Fremont Older Park: 698 acres, 22600 Prospect Road, Cupertino

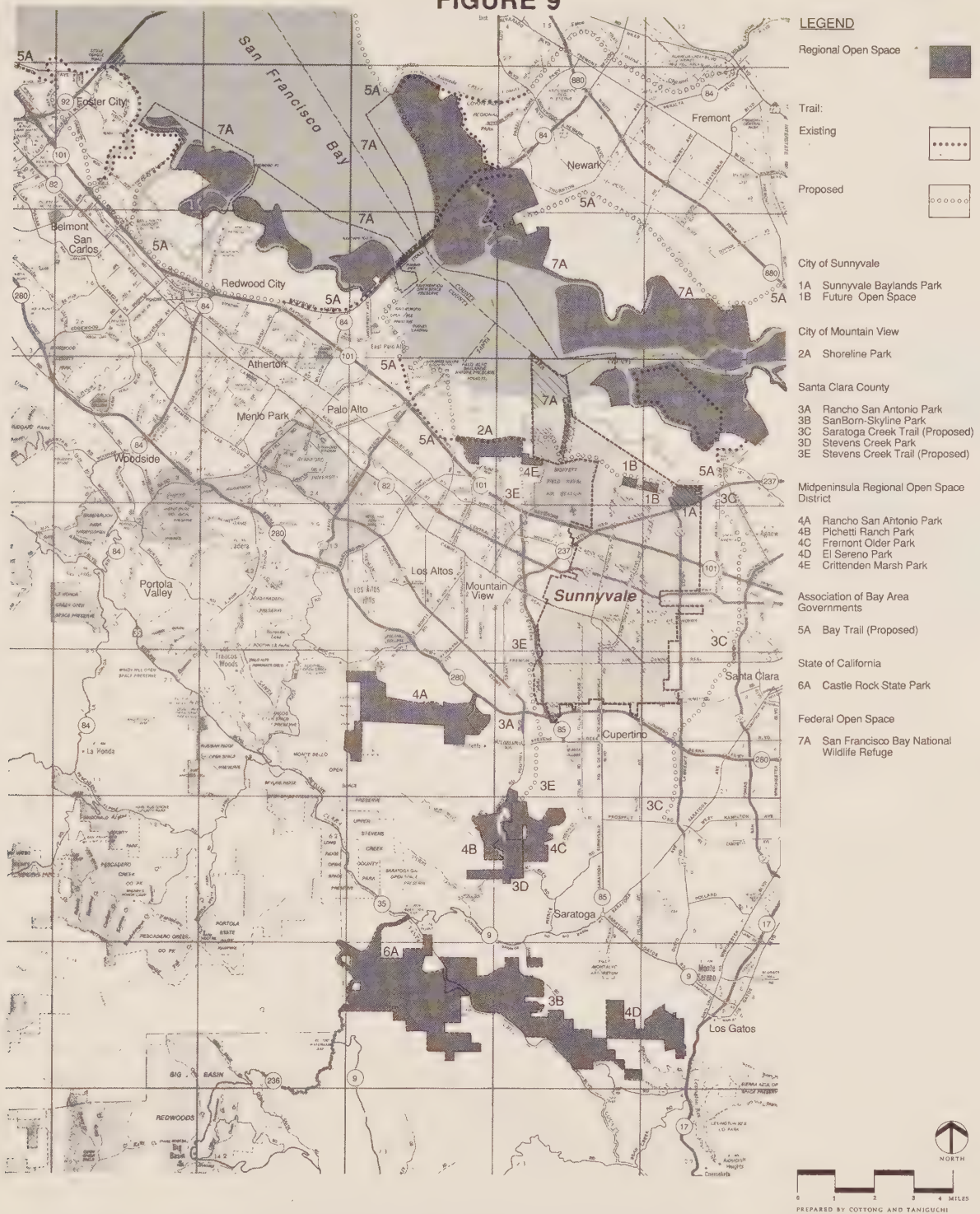
El Sereno Park: 1,019 acres, Montevina Road, off Highway 17, Los Gatos

Crittenden Marsh Park: 57 acres, end of Crittenden Lane, off Stierlin Road, Mountain View





FIGURE 9



## REGIONAL OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Association of Bay Area Governments



The regional San Francisco Bay Trail, authorized by the State of California in 1987, is a 400-mile hiking and bicycling trail around the perimeter of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. The preparation of the Bay Trail Plan is being coordinated by a nonprofit corporation which has the involvement of cities, counties, special districts, environmental, recreational, transportation and private interests. The Bay Trail nonprofit organization is staffed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and housed at its Oakland offices. The plan provides connections to more than 90 existing parks and recreation facilities and publicly accessible open space, creates links to existing and proposed transportation facilities, and avoids any adverse effects on environmentally sensitive areas. Existing bay fill, primarily in the form of levees, provides shoreline trail access in many locations and trail design policies require that construction and use be appropriate to the immediate surroundings.

Policies and design guidelines for the Bay Trail are intended to complement rather than supplant the adopted regulations and guidelines of local managing agencies. Implementation of the trail relies on continued cooperation among shoreline property owners, the local/regional/state/federal agencies with jurisdiction over the trail alignment, the numerous trusts and foundations which operate in the region, and the countless environmental and recreation interest groups whose members are interested in the future of the Bay Area. Discussions regarding operation and maintenance costs and responsibilities are occurring throughout the region, although no definitive plan is in place to date.

A conceptual plan for the Bay Trail is currently being reviewed at the local level by the South Bay Ad Hoc Committee which includes representatives from the City. The proposed alignment of the trail in Sunnyvale extends roughly east/west on the levees north of the Water Pollution Control Plant, landfill and Sunnyvale Baylands Park. Baylands Park will serve as a trailhead or gathering point for trail users.



## State of California

The State of California Parks and Recreation Department administers and maintains Castle Rock State Park, a 560-acre park on the western ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains near the junction of Highways 9 and 35. Hikers can reach the park on trails from the Santa Clara Valley via either Sanborn-Skyline County Park or from the San Lorenzo Valley via Skyline to Sea Trail.

The park provides a semi-wilderness area of picnic facilities, hiking trails, and expert class rock climbing. Future development plans for the park include a small nature center for interpretive activities.

Management policies for Castle Rock Park include maintaining the near wilderness quality of the site by offering activities that have a limited impact on the park's environment. With its location near Sunnyvale, residents have the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor recreational experience which is not available within the City's park system. This is the only State park in close proximity to Sunnyvale.



## Federal Open Space

Federally-owned lands, which contribute to the South Bay's Regional Park network and to Sunnyvale's open space, are part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (SFBNWR). The refuge consists of over 18,000 acres of wetlands, salt ponds, and mudflats along the edge of the San Francisco Bay. Approximately 3,700 acres of these lands are located within Santa Clara County. The refuge is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Management policies for the refuge focus on protecting the flora and fauna which thrive in the estuarine and other wetland habitats and providing opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn about the Bay environment. Activities consistent with these policies include hiking, bicycling, picnicking, boat launching, and public education at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso.



## Changes Since 1981

The Open Space Sub-Element adopted in 1981 called for the City to take a number of actions to continue cooperation with other governmental agencies for the development and maintenance of open space and recreation facilities within Santa Clara County.

State legislation, which has provided funding for the acquisition, development and/or maintenance of parks and open space, has included Community Parklands Act of 1986, California Wildlife Coastal and Parkland Conservation Bond Act of 1988, Roberti-Z'berg-Harris Open Space and Recreation Grant Program of 1989/90, and the Environmental and Mitigation Program of 1989. The City has applied for and been granted funds from each of these sources except the Mitigation Grant.

Parks and open space have been developed in adjacent communities including: five sites in Santa Clara; three sites in Mountain View; and five sites in Cupertino. In addition, the City of Mountain View has begun the first phase of its Stevens Creek Corridor trail project.



The County of Santa Clara has acquired or developed 6,415 acres of additional park and open space within the County.

A key component of the Baylands Park Plan is its role as a trailhead or gathering place for users of the regional Bay Trail. Coordinated by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), this open space project has multi-jurisdictional cooperation and responsibilities. The segment in Santa Clara County is currently in a schematic planning stage.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District currently includes 32,000 acres of open space including grasslands, creeks, streams, ponds and forests. During the 12-month period ending March 1990, the District acquired 24 parcels totaling 1,482 acres of open space now open to the general public.

## Planning Considerations and Issues

Issues which need to be addressed relative to future regional open space development include:

Consideration of Santa Clara County's park management policies and procedures in the development of operational guidelines for Baylands Park. Additionally, it will be important to explore the availability and feasibility of new revenue sources, funding mechanisms and potential joint partnerships for the development, management and maintenance of Baylands Park and the Sunnyvale portion of the Bay Trail.



The monitoring of, and cooperation with, the planning efforts of local jurisdictions regarding other trail development in and adjacent to Sunnyvale will become more important.

Santa Clara County's development and the implementation of goals and policies related to potential formation of a new open space district, establishment of a land trust, and land acquisition priorities should be monitored.

Finally, additional land acquisition by the County and Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District in the hillside areas continues to be important for open space preservation and public use purposes.

The pending closure of Moffett Naval Air Station in October, 1994, may provide the City with additional opportunities to acquire the 35 acres of federal lands currently leased from the Navy as part of the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course. In addition, the City should evaluate the feasibility of acquiring and operating the Moffett Field Golf Course.

## Industrial and Commercial Facilities

### Industrial Facilities

During the past 15 years, there has been tremendous growth in industrial development within the City of Sunnyvale, resulting in intense competition among these industries to attract and retain personnel. At the height of the electronics

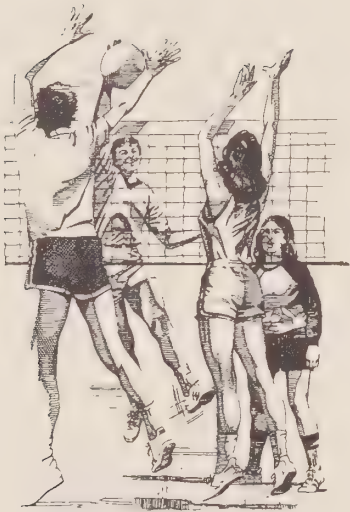
boom, many businesses began to offer recreation programs and open space opportunities for employees during and after work. The provision of these employee programs was seen as a benefit by workers and a strategy to attract and retain skilled individuals by management. This resulted in the implementation of company-sponsored recreation and park programs, including the construction of on-site parks and recreation facilities by some of the larger companies.

Several corporations in Sunnyvale offer their employees the benefit of recreational facilities and programs depending upon the company's overall economic position and commitment to personal growth of its workers. Facilities provided on site may include aerobic and fitness centers, athletic courts, picnic areas, and rooms for meetings and social events. Some corporations also offer recreational programming which includes year-round sports leagues. The highly organized system of corporate-sponsored teams has led to as many as 500 teams competing in some of the more popular sports on City, school, and private athletic play fields.

A few industries can accommodate their recreation activities on their premises, but more industries have turned to the City to provide athletic fields, picnic and other facilities.

Two of the major corporations in Sunnyvale offering recreation programs to their employees are Lockheed Missiles and Space Company and National Semiconductor. During the last six years, Lockheed, through its Lockheed Employees Recreation Association (LERA), has added special facilities including a recreational vehicle storage area, two lighted softball fields, picnic and volleyball facilities and a 6,500 square foot addition to the Fitness Center. Similarly, National Semiconductor added a major recreation component in 1984 which includes picnic facilities, an amphitheater, ballfield, par course and playground. Additionally, Westinghouse, Inc. has a softball field, two gymnasiums and a track at its Sunnyvale High School site.

The Tri-County Industrial Recreation Council (TCIRC), formed in 1974, aids smaller industrial companies in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Alameda Counties to share information and encourage cooperative parks and recreation programs among industries. The organization has grown from 50 original





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member agencies to over 150 in 1990. Most of these companies are not able to provide their own facilities and generally turn to local recreation and parks departments to utilize facilities for softball games, picnics and other open space needs. Industry also utilizes private recreational outlets such as golf courses, health clubs and spas, and riding stables, as well as other recreational facilities in the area.

The Open Space Sub-Element adopted in 1981 encouraged private industry to develop recreation and park facilities on site wherever possible to benefit their employees. Many companies, due to their small size, cannot afford nor accommodate such facilities. Larger companies such as Lockheed and National Semiconductor are exceptions. In some instances, the City has worked with corporations via the TCIRC to utilize existing City facilities and offer professional help in providing recreational programs for their employees. Similarly, the City provides facilities for after work recreation, promoting reduced traffic during rush hour by allowing employees to participate in programs immediately after work.

The present trend for most corporations is to maintain existing recreational facilities and defer any future improvements until the present economic climate improves. Industries are also reducing support staff for recreation facilities and organized sports leagues. Liability concerns also make it difficult for private industry to encourage and/or welcome public participation and use of private facilities even during low use periods.

### Changes Since 1981

The Open Space Sub-Element adopted in 1981 identified several actions related to continued cooperation with industry to provide open space and facilities for joint use and benefits. Since that time two major projects have occurred in addition to the facility developments and enhancements previously noted. First, the City has had discussions with Lockheed Missiles and Space Company for several years regarding the need to improve pedestrian access from its properties to the nearby levee trails owned by the City. In 1991, the City completed the Moffett Park Jogging Trail Study which

identified current recreational use levels and patterns and made recommendations regarding potential site enhancements in this area.

Second, the Westinghouse Corporation allowed the City joint use of its recreational facilities site at the former Sunnyvale High School during the renovation of the Community Center during 1990 and 1991.

### Planning Considerations and Issues

**"The Tri-County Industrial Recreation Council is an effective link to the Sunnyvale industrial community as a whole."**

The Tri-County Industrial Recreation Council is an effective link to the Sunnyvale industrial community as a whole. The City's primary goal is to assist them in maximizing the use of City and County facilities in ways that do not interfere with resident use. Additionally, the City needs to continue to work closely with the corporate community to assure the greatest potential development of open space facilities on industrial sites where they are practically and economically feasible in order to relieve demands on public parks. Also, future discussions with those companies which have on-site recreational and open space facilities should be pursued regarding potential public use of those facilities.

Over the years, the City has involved Sunnyvale companies in the development of the open space/park system to assure that it meets the needs of the local industrial community. This has been particularly evident in the planning of Sunnyvale Baylands Park, not only because of its location in the Moffett Park Business area, but because of the intent to design the park so it would meet the need for large-scale corporate picnics. This ongoing communication has resulted in both a well-designed picnic area for the park and in corporate financial support for the development of this particular site. The City is also working cooperatively with Lockheed Missiles and Space Company to identify the most feasible and appropriate alignment for the Regional San Francisco Bay Trail. It will be important to maintain this contact with the industrial community in the future.

## Commercial Sites and Facilities

Positively affecting the City's park and recreation offerings are those facilities and programs operated by private and commercial profit-making organizations. Such programs, although normally thought of as competing with public programs, can actually complement and supplement the need

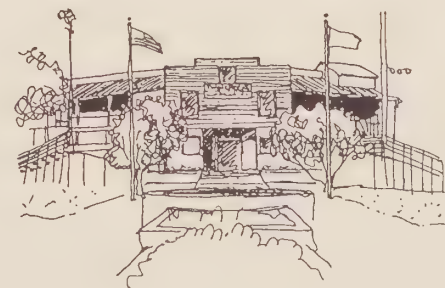
for expanding public demand for open space facilities and recreation programs.

Provision of private recreation facilities within Sunnyvale should be encouraged to relieve the demand on neighborhood facilities and open space. It is important to recognize that certain private and commercial recreation facilities are designed primarily to respond to fads and might, after a short period of time, succumb to changing consumer demand and become unprofitable. Further, because of limited financial resources, some residents of Sunnyvale will be prohibited from utilizing privately-owned recreational facilities. While the City encourages private development of these recreation facilities, it must monitor them in a way that will ensure that Sunnyvale residents' recreation needs can be met by a combination of City-sponsored and private recreation opportunities.

### Changes Since 1981

The most significant addition to privately owned facilities in Sunnyvale is the Twin Creeks Sports Complex, developed in 1985, which is leased from the County under a 25-year agreement and is located on 53 acres adjacent to Sunnyvale Baylands Park.

The complex consists of 10 lighted softball fields, a large open turf area and a clubhouse. Establishment of this facility in 1985 initially impacted the City's program of field use by organized leagues, though capacity use of the City fields has occurred the last few years.





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## Planning Considerations and Issues

The primary issue which should be monitored and addressed relative to commercial open space is the continuation of support for the existence of diverse private and commercial park and recreation facilities within the City of Sunnyvale and surrounding areas. Such private and commercial development should be encouraged particularly where it complements and supplements the City's parks, open space and recreation programs.

**FIGURE 10**

**COMMUNITY CONDITION INDICATORS**

<b><u>City Open Space</u></b> (Owned by City, County, school districts, other public agencies, private entities)	<b>FY 80/81</b>	<b>FY 90/91</b>	<b>FY 91/92</b>	<b>FY 95/96</b>	<b>FY 00/01</b>
1. City population	107,500	119,649	121,000*	126,000*	132,450*
2. Total open space acreage	691	838	838	844	
3. Open space acreage per 1,000 people	6.4	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.4
4. Regional park acreage	170	177	177	177	177
5. Neighborhood parks acreage	124.75	144	144	144	150
6. Athletic fields acreage	170.95	257	250	250	250
7. Special use facility acreage	225.30	267	267	267	267
8. Open space by Neighborhood Planning Area					
a. Serra	12	45	45	45	45
b. Ortega	44	60	60	60	60
c. Raynor	52	68	68	68	68
d. DeAnza	64	86	86	86	86
e. Washington	18	32	25	25	25
f. Ponderosa	54	54	54	54	54
g. West Murphy	150	174	174	174	175
h. East Murphy	27	35	35	35	35
i. Lakewood	270	291	291	291	296

\* Based on Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) projections





# GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STATEMENTS





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## GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STATEMENTS

### Introduction

The Open Space Sub-Element of the City of Sunnyvale's General Plan establishes a set of integrated goals, policies, and action statements which guide decision-making and lead toward the provision of a comprehensive park and open space system.

Goals, policies, and action statements in this Open Space Sub-Element are based on sound planning principles and basic findings of facts or existing conditions previously outlined in this document. These are:

1. A balanced and adequate system of parks is essential to this community. The City of Sunnyvale is committed to maintaining and improving both parks and other open space in the community for present and future generations.
2. Recreational open space and facilities of schools throughout the City contribute significantly to the open space assets of the community. Loss of school open space and facilities would be detrimental to the system and would substantially diminish recreational opportunities in Sunnyvale.
3. Open space and a well-balanced park system provide more than opportunities for recreation and leisure outlets. Open space is a vital component of a balanced, attractive, and desirable urban environment.
4. Open space provides ecological balance by replenishing oxygen which aids in cleaner air, provides groundwater recharge areas, cuts down on heat reflection, softens the visual image of a built environment, and generally provides for an aesthetically-pleasing community. Open space further



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helps residents of urban centers to maintain a connection with nature and their environment.

5. Increasing population and changing demographic characteristics will continue to impose increasing demands on urban open space, particularly parks and recreation facilities.
6. Open space provides the sites and facilities in which children and adults may participate in cultural/artistic experiences, organized and informal sports and games, and many kinds of social activities as individuals, families, or very large groups, close to home or work.
7. Open space offers the opportunity for the City to retain, manage, and interpret the agricultural history and heritage of the past through remnants of the crop fields and orchards.
8. The City must continue to cooperate with, and rely upon other governmental agencies, industry and commercial enterprises to satisfy community open space needs and demands.
9. Available, accessible and quality public open space is constantly under urban development pressures and is consistently declining.

### **Goals**

Open space goals are organized under six headings:

- A. MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACE
- B. FISCAL FRAMEWORK
- C. PARKS AND SPECIAL USE FACILITIES
- D. SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT AND COOPERATION
- E. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION
- F. INDUSTRIAL, PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

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**GOAL A:      MANAGE A COMPREHENSIVE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC NEED, DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE AND EXEMPLIFIES THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.**

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**POLICY A.1:**            Encourage active citizen involvement in the development and management of open space.

Action Statements:

- A.1.a. Provide opportunities for public participation in planning the development and management of open space.
- A.1.b. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of needs for open space and recreation facilities and services at least every five years concurrent with updating of the Open Space Sub-Element.
- A.1.c. Provide a mechanism that receives and responds to public comments on the design, effectiveness and condition of sites and facilities.
- A.1.d. Investigate and pursue avenues for citizen involvement in the implementation of open space programs, such as landscape plantings and park beautification activities.

**POLICY A.2:**            Provide consistently high quality customer service through attractive open space, parks, and facilities which invite and facilitate public use.

Action Statements:

- A.2.a. Support implementation of the City's customer service philosophy through staff training and other supervisory policies and practices.

- A.2.b. Develop, redevelop, modify or enhance sites and facilities based upon the findings of periodic needs assessments.
- A.2.c. Encourage responsible use of the open space system through positive public relations and communication.
- A.2.d. Develop, redevelop, or modify park sites, amenities, fixtures, or furniture for access by mobility-impaired and physically limited persons.

**POLICY A.3:** Provide a comprehensive program of consistent and effective operations and maintenance for all open space and park sites and facilities.

- A.3.a. Update and utilize a comprehensive program for site and facility maintenance that will provide safe, clean, attractive and functional open space and park sites and facilities.
- A.3.b. Adopt and follow a comprehensive program of infrastructure replacement and upgrading as a part of the annual parks and facilities maintenance and capital budgets.

**POLICY A.4:** Implement innovative policies and practices that support the City's leadership in environmental affairs.

Action Statements:

- A.4.a. Continue and expand the current water conservation program and investigate feasibility of utilizing reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and water features throughout the open space system.
- A.4.b. Develop and implement a system-wide program of energy conservation in maintenance and operational activities for all sites and facilities.



A.4.c. Develop and implement public recycling programs as feasible at sites throughout the open space system.

A.4.d. Investigate and implement techniques which minimize use of chemicals in maintaining turf and landscape materials.

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**GOAL B: ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP OPEN SPACE IDENTIFIED AS HIGH PRIORITY THROUGH LAND DEDICATION OR PURCHASE.**

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**POLICY B.1.** Require the dedication of land by developers when the property to be developed is adjacent to an existing open space, park site or area otherwise identified as a high priority for open space uses.

Action Statement:

B.1.a. Coordinate efforts with the Community Development Department to notify developers of high priority open space sites.

**POLICY B.2:** Pursue the acquisition of federal lands currently located at Moffett Naval Air Station.

Action Statements:

B.2.a. Secure title to the 35-acre parcel currently leased from the Navy which is part of the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course.

B.2.b. Investigate the feasibility of acquiring and operating the Moffett Field Golf Course.

**POLICY B.3:** Maintain the Open Space Reserve at a level sufficient to meet identified land acquisition goals.

Action Statements:

B.3.a. Review and evaluate open space and land acquisition/development opportunities on an ongoing basis.

B.3.b. Identify level of fiscal resources necessary to acquire land for future development or redevelopment as open space.

**POLICY B.4:** Identify revenue sources and increase revenues, where possible, which can be allocated to parks and open space operating budgets and capital improvements.

Action Statements:

B.4.a. Participate in the review of all development and redevelopment projects which may result in park dedication fees that will be applied to the Capital Improvement Program.

B.4.b. Solicit contributions from industrial and commercial enterprises to be dedicated to the open space capital improvement program for jointly developed and operated projects.

B.4.c. Encourage contributions, grants and loans for open space acquisition and development through the community and other foundations, civic organizations, and individuals.

B.4.d. Continue to monitor all governmental agencies for potential open space grants and prepare applications as appropriate.

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**GOAL C:     MAINTAIN A SYSTEM OF PARKS THAT ASSURES ALL RESIDENTS, WORKERS AND VISITORS ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY PROVIDING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, ATHLETIC/PLAY FIELDS AND SPECIAL USE FACILITIES.**

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**POLICY C.1:**         Provide, develop and maintain Neighborhood Parks.

Action Statements:

- C.1.a. Evaluate conditions of each site on an annual basis.
- C.1.b. Update base maps and inventory of facilities and equipment of all sites subsequent to any development, redevelopment or other improvements.
- C.1.c. Complete development of new park sites concurrent with the surrounding residential development as appropriate.
- C.1.d. Coordinate the siting and design of each park with the City's Planning Division and Public Works Department to ensure effective integration of the park site into the urban structure and utility networks.
- C.1.e. Consider acquisition or lease of sites to assure that accessible open space is maintained in each existing neighborhood and provided to any new neighborhoods.



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**POLICY C.2:** Provide, develop and maintain Athletic/  
Play Fields.

Action Statements:

- C.2.a. Evaluate conditions of each site on an annual basis.
- C.2.b. Update base maps and inventory of facilities and equipment of all sites subsequent to any development, redevelopment or other improvements.
- C.2.c. Jointly develop or redevelop athletic/play field sites with the appropriate School District per established agreements.

**POLICY C.3:** Investigate development of a system of multi-purpose trails for recreational uses.

Action Statements:

- C.3.a. Research and assess the feasibility of developing a system of off-street pedestrian and bicycle trails utilizing flood channels, utility rights-of-way, and other linear parcels.
- C.3.b. Explore additional opportunities to develop or enhance the area along the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct as a pedestrian/bicycle trail.
- C.3.c. Explore the joint use of Santa Clara Valley Water District owned land for trail purposes.
- C.3.d. Participate in planning and development of the Regional San Francisco Bay Trail to assure access from Baylands Park.

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**POLICY C.4:** Provide, develop and maintain Special Use Parks and Facilities.

Action Statements:

- C.4.a. Evaluate conditions of each site on an annual basis.
- C.4.b. Update base maps and inventory of facilities and equipment of all sites subsequent to any development, redevelopment or other improvements.
- C.4.c. Provide for a balance between general recreation uses and special interest uses in parks and facilities.
- C.4.d. Explore development of a major athletic complex at the former Sunnyvale High School site if property is declared surplus by Fremont Union High School District.
- C.4.e. Consider the designation, development and management of an Orchard Heritage Park at the Community Center site consistent with an overall plan and in cooperation with the Sunnyvale Historical Society.

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**GOAL D. COOPERATE WITH AND SUPPORT THE FOUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHICH SERVE SUNNYVALE IN ORDER TO CONTINUE ACCESS TO SCHOOL SITES AND FACILITIES BY PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK OR VISIT IN SUNNYVALE FOR SUITABLE, SAFE, AND CONSISTENT RECREATIONAL USE AND ENJOYMENT.**

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**POLICY D.1:** Participate in joint planning by the City and the School Districts for preservation, development and upgrading of open space and recreational facilities for continued community use of school open space sites.

Action Statements:

- D.1.a. Continue close cooperation with the School Districts for joint planning, design, and development of open space and recreational facilities on school sites for community use.
- D.1.b. Update base maps and inventory of facilities and equipment of all sites subsequent to any development, redevelopment or other improvements.



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**POLICY D.2:** Encourage the School Districts to retain school sites used for community open space and recreation programs. When financially feasible, consider acquisition or joint use of sites and suitable facilities that are declared surplus if they are needed to maintain neighborhood open space accessibility.

Action Statements:

- D.2.a. Maintain long-term contractual agreements with the School Districts for operation, maintenance and use of designated sites.
- D.2.b. Assist School Districts, where appropriate, to find buyers or tenants compatible with continued community open space and recreation uses at closed school sites.
- D.2.c. Consider acquisition or lease of a portion of the former Sunnyvale High School site for development of a major athletic complex.
- D.2.d. Consider the acquisition or lease of open space and related facilities at Braly and Ponderosa Elementary Schools if the sites are declared surplus by the Santa Clara School District.

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**GOAL E:      ENCOURAGE AND COOPERATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT REGIONAL OPEN SPACE AND TO ACQUIRE, DEVELOP, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK OR VISIT IN SUNNYVALE.**

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**POLICY E.1:**      Support and encourage Santa Clara County, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, State of California, and appropriate federal agencies and established private entities to acquire, develop, maintain and operate existing and new open space and recreational sites and facilities within the urbanized area in and around Sunnyvale.

Action Statements:

- E.1.a. Complete joint development of Sunnyvale Baylands Park with Santa Clara County and operate and maintain the site and facilities.
- E.1.b. Support other agencies in the development of regional pedestrian/bicycle trails and specifically, the Regional San Francisco Bay Trail coordinated by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).
- E.1.c. Support legislation that will provide additional funding for local, county, and regional park acquisition, development, and maintenance.
- E.1.d. Pursue a cooperative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the management and interpretation of the seasonal wetlands at Sunnyvale Baylands Park.

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E.1.e. Support additional regional open space acquisition by the County of Santa Clara and the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District.

E.1.f. Support the formation of a County Open Space District.

**POLICY E.2:** Cooperate with other public or private agencies on the planning and development of open space sites and facilities located adjacent to City boundaries.

Action Statement:

E.2.a. Work closely and cooperatively with neighboring cities and other public or private agencies to plan and develop park sites and facilities located near City boundaries in order to eliminate duplication, reduce over/under use, and assure access for people who live, work or visit in Sunnyvale.



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**GOAL F: ENCOURAGE EFFORTS BY INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE CITY TO PRESERVE, DEVELOP, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK OR VISIT IN SUNNYVALE.**

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**POLICY F.1:** Encourage development of private or commercial facilities that will retain or create open space areas or expand recreational opportunities for the general public.

Action Statement:

F.1.a. Encourage development proposals for private membership or commercial recreational uses that will reserve or maintain open space to benefit and serve the recreational needs of people who live, work or visit in Sunnyvale.

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## UPDATING OF THE OPEN SPACE SUB-ELEMENT

Periodic updating of information contained in the Open Space Sub-Element provides the opportunity to identify current data and emerging trends, as well as measure success towards meeting open space goals. An annual update should include reviewing the data and statistical base of information contained in the Sub-Element and the progress of meeting established goals and policies through the implementation of the action statements. This annual review will be included as a segment of the year-end report on the activities and accomplishments of the Parks and Recreation Department. The five-year revision should include the most recent federal census, or special census data, and any current studies of trends and alternative futures.





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# RESOLUTION





RESOLUTION NO. 117-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE AMENDING THE GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE BY ADOPTING A REVISED OPEN SPACE SUBELEMENT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation and Community Development has proposed an amendment to the General Plan of the City of Sunnyvale, as amended, which proposed amendment is set forth in Report to Council No. 92-070 dated February 18, 1992; and

WHEREAS, notice of preparation of a Negative Declaration on September 18, 1991, was given in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, and City Council Resolution No. 193-86; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held noticed public hearings on the proposed amendment and reviewed and considered the Negative Declaration on October 14, 1991 and November 11, 1991, after which the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the amendment, incorporating certain amendments thereto, as set forth in the Minutes of the Planning Commission dated November 11, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, pursuant to published notice on September 18, 1991, scheduled a public hearing for October 29, 1991, which hearing was continued to December 3, 1991, then to February 18, 1992, and was held on that date concerning adoption of the revised Open Space Subelement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT:

1. The City Council finds and determines that the proposed amendment is consistent with the existing terms of the City's General Plan and Zoning Code, that it is a suitable and logical change in the plans for the physical development of the City, and that it is in the public interest.

2. The City Council finds and determines that all necessary environmental assessment procedures have been conducted and completed in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, guidelines



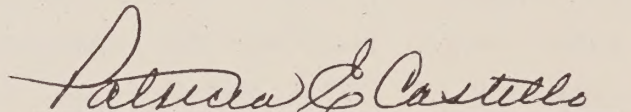
promulgated thereunder, and pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 193-86, and the Director of Community Development is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and file a Notice of Determination regarding the amendment.

3. The City Clerk is directed to file a certified copy of the amendment to the General Plan of the City of Sunnyvale with the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission of the County of Santa Clara and the planning agency of each city within the County of Santa Clara. The City Clerk is directed further to file a certified copy of the amendment with the legislative body of each city, the land of which may be included in the plan.

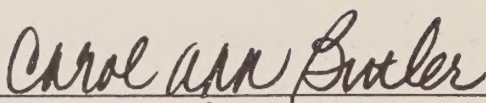
Adopted by the City Council of the City of Sunnyvale at a regular meeting held on February 18, 1992, by the following called vote:

AYES: ROWE, PARKER, WALDMAN, STONE, NAPIER, KAWCZYNSKI, CASTILLO  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
City Clerk

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk  
(SEAL)



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